




The Greater Patagonian Trail Hiker's Manual

Jan Dudeck
2018-Oct-26



The Greater Patagonian Trail and this documentation is not the creation of single person but growths with the contributions of many. These contributors shared their local expertise, researched new routes, consulted me in publishing the GPT and worked on this documentation. I'm grateful for the distinct contributions from the following collaborators:

[Bethany Hughes](#), [Danilo Contreras](#), [Estefania Chereguini](#), [Garrett Martin](#), [Gerald Klamer](#), [Joaquin Baraňao](#), [Juan Pablo Marsiglia](#), [Kara Davis](#), [Lauren Reed](#), [Matgorzata \(Gosia\) Gmerek](#), [Michael Deckebach](#), [Oliver Barker](#), [Paul Bostelmann](#), [Piia Kortsalo](#), [Tobias Hellwig](#), [Walter Oszust](#)

Many more made this endeavour advance by providing updates to tracks and waypoints, by sharing their trail experience with other hikers and more importantly: by leaving a positive trace in the hearts and the minds of the people that live along this trail.

My special thanks goes to my wife and hiking partner Meylin Ubilla. Meylin was with me on every step and paddle stroke that set the foundation for this adventure network and whenever we struggled researching new routes Meylin was encouraging. And while I'm working on this trail documentation she supports me with here amazing patients.

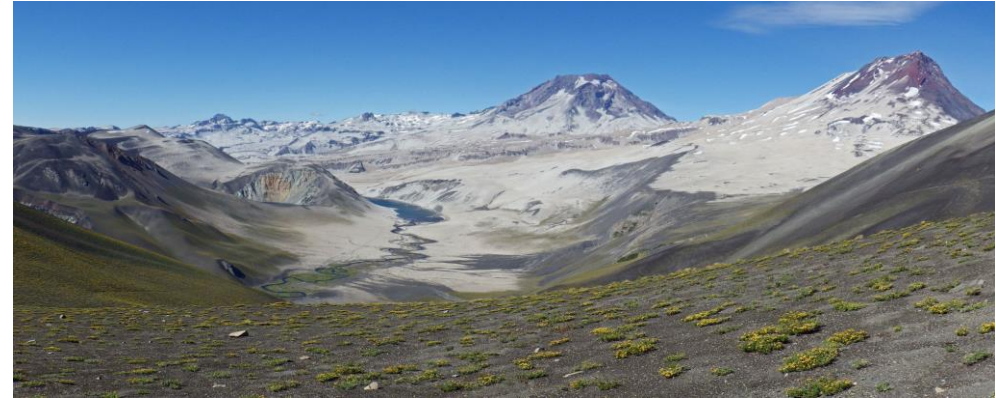
Jan Dudeck

Prologue

The Greater Patagonian Trail (GPT) is a long-distance route network in the southern Andes that spans from the outskirts of Santiago all the way to southern Patagonia.

It's a stunningly beautiful and diverse trail system that guides you in the first part from the semi-desert of the *Precordillera* into scenic Andes valleys. The trails cross numerous dormant and active volcanos with partially healed volcanic scars and fresh open wounds from eruptions as recent as 2011. You can take a dip in more than a dozen hot springs along the way to draw from this energy.

Continuing, you will dive into the twilight of lush green tempered rain forest lined by snow covered mountains. Numerous passes and high plains get you above the tree line into barren terrain with broad views. Crystal clear rivers descend from these mountains and feed deep blue lake along the way. If you packraft you can paddle over these lakes and float down these rivers all the way into the Patagonian fjords where the Pacific Ocean hits the ragged coast.



Picture 1: GPT06: The volcanos Descabezado Grande and Cerro Azul with the Laguna Caracol to their feet. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 2: GPT11: *Araucaria* trees in the *Pehuenche* homeland. Image: Jan Dudeck

Eventually you reach the Southern Patagonian Ice Field, one of the world's largest extra-polar ice field. Here giant rock towers stab into the sky and enormous glaciers calve colossal blocks of ice into wind battered lakes.

On the northern part of the route you will meet solitary cowboys (In Chile called *arrieros* or *puesteros*) with their animals that move every spring after the snow melts on higher ground to let their livestock feed on the mountain pastures. The trail later crosses the homeland of the indigenous *Pehuenche* (one of the *Mapuche* tribes) where majestic *Araucaria* trees tower above the tribal land and provide the traditional food for these sometimes shy and sometimes proud people. When going further south you will meet courageous settlers that have ventured into the challenging back-country of Patagonia. If you are interested, you can listen to their stories while sitting around the warm stove and sharing the traditional drink of this region: *Mate*. These authentic encounters are part of the beauty of this trail.

In countless locations the trail branches into different routes creating a wide network of tracks that give you many choices. You may either walk the entire distance or you can bring a packraft to float down rivers and to paddle and sail over lakes and fjords.



Picture 3: GPT19: Cross Country walking on volcanic ash at Cordon Caulle after recent eruption. Image: Jan Dudeck

There are also various volcanoes and other summits along the route that can be ascended without rock climbing gear. I have also included optional tracks that get you into literally the last valley in the border between Chile and Argentina. These remote corners of the southern Andes are of particular interest to hikers that love to venture into remote back-country.

The Main Route currently spans approximately 3'000 km and the entire route network including all options contains more than 16'000 km of tracks.

If this introduction quickened your appetite to explore this network of trails then don't stop reading here and don't pack your backpack yet. The GPT is quite different from what you expect. Especially if you have thru-hiked the famous long-distance trails in the US (i.e. the Appalachian Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail or the Continental Divide Trail) or if you walked on the European pilgrimage trails (i.e. the Camino de Santiago) then don't assume that the GPT will be a similar experience and that you are prepared for it. This region and this route network is unequal in nature. Some best practices and habits that are key for thru-hiking in the US would be foolish in Patagonia and other skills and aptitudes are essential to truly appreciate the Greater Patagonian Trail.

Since I started publishing the GPT I have seen around one hundred people



Picture 4: GPT28: Packrafting the Río Palena. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 5: GPT38: Glaciar O'Higgins creeping down from the Southern Icefield. Image: Jan Dudeck

attempting to walk major parts of the trail and I was in contact with many of the them. The majority was absolutely amazed by the land and the people and their experience on the trail. But some hikers quickly aborted or changed their plans and missed the best parts of the trail in consequence. Interestingly, these were partly experienced hikers and athletic walkers.

In the following section of this Hiker's Manual I try to rectify potentially incorrect assumptions and outline the essentials for hiking and packrafting on this trail network. You should also watch the [feature documentary “Unbounded”](#) and read the [publications of other hikers and packrafters](#) to learn from the diverse experiences of others on the Greater Patagonian Trail.



Picture 6: GPT19: Dormant Volcano Puyehue. Image: Jan Dudeck

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1.3 The GPT Route Network

The Greater Patagonian Trail is not a hiking trail. Yes, you read correctly so let me repeat one more time:

The GPT is not a hiking trail.

So, what is it then?

The GPT is an informal route network that consists mostly of trails, roads and cross-country routes that were not created with hikers in mind. Most of the trails were made by the local population to serve their purposes, i.e. to drive animals to summer pastures, to get to remote settlements and outposts or to extract wood from the forest. The routes that the GPT is composed of include:

- well maintained horse trails that are regularly used by the local cowboys (in Chile arriero or puestero, in Argentina gaucho),
- poorly maintained and neglected trails that are washed out, trenched and blocked by fallen logs,
- minor roads and simple car tracks that are occasionally used by all-terrain vehicles,



Picture 12: GPT09: An arriero driving a flock of goats to a summer pasture. Image: Jan Dudeck

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The Host Nations of the GPT
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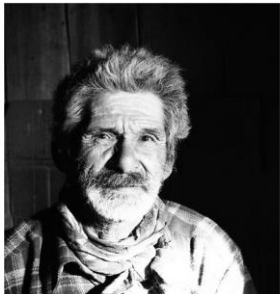
In the following I want to share some of our experiences and lessons learned with the four groups of people that we frequently meet along the trail:

- Arrieros and Gauchos or the cowboys of Chile and Argentina
- The native Pehuenche Population
- Settlers and Homestead Farmers that colonized Patagonia
- The rich and super-rich Large Estate Land Holders

I categorize between these groups despite recognizing that you some-times cannot clearly distinct between the first three. An indigenous Pehuenche may work and act like an arriero and many settlers have indigenous roots.

1.8.3 Arrieros and Gauchos

From section GPT01 to section GPT09 you will frequently meet men on horses that in late spring drive livestock up in the mountains and watch over it till they drive the animals back down in autumn. These men (but never women!) get normally employed by the landowner that holds a large plot of land in the mountains. The animals that they watch over are normally owned by several farmers that pay for the service to fatten




Picture 43: GPT36H: Don Heraldo Rial. Image: Paul Bostelmann

Chapter 2 Terrain and Section Information

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Section Description | GPT06: Volcán Descabezado
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Google Earth

GPT | Terrain and Section Information
Section Description | GPT06: Volcán Descabezado
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GPT06: Volcán Descabezado | Regular Route (RR@T06) | 86.5 km | 4258 m | 4372 m



Elevation Profile 10: GPT06 Regular Route

Chapter 3 Appendix and Indices

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Track Classifications and Nomenclature
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Below are five example track names that become easily decipherable and conclusive with the detailed explanation later on.

Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code
RR: Regular Route	TL: Horse or Hiking Trail	V: Validated Route	T06: Track of Section GPT06
			-
			46.0: Track starts 46.0 km after section start

RR-MR-V@T19-9.7

Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code
RP: Regular Packrafting Route	MR: Minor Road	V: Validated Route	T19: Track of Section GPT19
			-
			9.7: Track starts 9.7 km after section start

RH-TL-I@T27H-7.4

Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code
RH: Regular Hiking Route	TL: Horse or Hiking Trail	I: Investigation Route	T27H: Track of Section GPT27H
			-
			7.4: Track starts 7.4 km after section start

OH-CC-A@T19-D-#001

Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code
OH: Optional Hiking Route	CC: Cross Country	A: Approximate Route	T19: Track of Section GPT19
			D: Variant D
			#001: Track Number 1

OP-RI-1@T22-05-#001

Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code
OP: Optional Packrafting Route	RI: River Packrafting	1: One-Way Route	T22: Track of Section GPT22
			05: Option 5
			#001: Track Number 1

Table 110: Example track names

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Section Designation	Regular Route or Regular	Hiking Route	Ascent	Descent	Hiking Time		
Code	Name	Distance	Hiking Dist.	Ferry Dist.			
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	39.4 km	39.4 km	0.0 km	2227 m	1901 m	14 h
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	100.7 km	100.7 km	0.0 km	5146 m	5383 m	36 h
GPT03	Rios Claros	83.7 km	83.7 km	0.0 km	4633 m	4904 m	32 h
GPT04	Alto Huemul	60.9 km	60.9 km	0.0 km	3101 m	2943 m	21 h
GPT05	Rio Colorado	112.2 km	112.2 km	0.0 km	5918 m	5495 m	41 h
GPT06	Volcán Descabezado	86.5 km	86.5 km	0.0 km	4258 m	4372 m	30 h
GPT07	Laguna Dial	155.2 km	155.2 km	0.0 km	5611 m	5857 m	50 h
GPT08	Volcán Chillan	141.1 km	141.1 km	0.0 km	6636 m	6544 m	48 h
GPT09	Volcán Antuco	61.5 km	61.5 km	0.0 km	2336 m	2218 m	20 h
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	48.0 km	48.0 km	0.0 km	1690 m	1680 m	15 h
GPT11	Cerro Dodos	39.0 km	39.0 km	0.0 km	2071 m	1835 m	14 h
GPT12	Rio Rahue	106.0 km	106.0 km	0.0 km	4684 m	4845 m	37 h
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	38.7 km	38.7 km	0.0 km	828 m	707 m	10 h
GPT14	Volcán Solipulli	59.9 km	59.9 km	0.0 km	1875 m	2192 m	17 h
GPT15	Curarrehue	51.1 km	51.1 km	0.0 km	1488 m	1938 m	15 h
GPT16	Volcán Quetrupillan	67.5 km	67.5 km	0.0 km	2386 m	2551 m	21 h
GPT17H	Liquiñe	35.8 km	35.8 km	0.0 km	2022 m	1638 m	12 h
GPT18	Lago Pihuelco	95.4 km	70.3 km	25.1 km	2369 m	2875 m	24 h
GPT19	Lago Puyehue	83.1 km	83.1 km	0.0 km	4248 m	3973 m	29 h
GPT20	Volcán Antillanca	38.5 km	38.5 km	0.0 km	1796 m	2036 m	13 h
GPT21	Lago Todos Los Santos	82.0 km	59.1 km	22.8 km	2136 m	2228 m	18 h

1 Introduction and General Information

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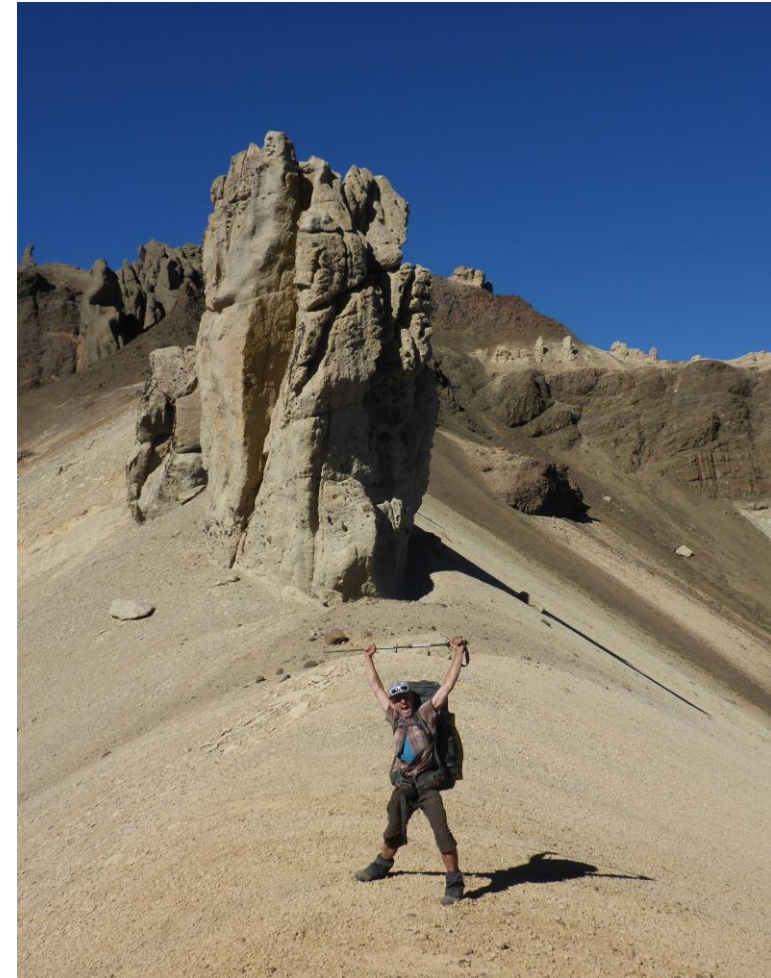
1.1 Statements about the GPT by Hikers and Packrafters

Bethany Hughes and Lauren Reed (Fidgit and Neon): "This trail has been the most punishing and the most magical experience of my hiking career to date."

Burkhard Rose: "To walk the Greater Patagonian trial was one of the best thinks in my live. Every day I enjoyed the wonderful, all the time changing landscape. (...) The volcano areas where the most impressive parts for me!"

Piia Kortsalo and Oliver Barker: "We're filled with incredible memories of our time on the GPT, and the landscape and culture of the Chilean Andes will stay with us forever. While hiking the GPT was an incredible experience for us, we don't imagine this as the right trail for everyone. The GPT is closer to an idea of a route than an established trail; hikers setting out expecting a well-organized, continuous, marked hiking trail will inevitably be disappointed. The GPT really is a route for a very specific sort of hiker, one who's as interested in natural history and cultural experience as they are in trail miles."

Brian Tanzman (Buck-30): "Honestly, I wouldn't recommend hiking the GPT to any of my thru hiking friends."



Picture 7: GPT11: Burkhard Rose crossing the rocky ridge Las Monjas. Image: Burkhard Rose

Garrett Martin: "This trail is unlike any other trail in the world and requires detailed planning, determination, physical and mental strength and most importantly - respect for the people and environment along the trail. Throughout our 4-month journey, we discovered the beauty of the Andes Mountain range and the incredibly generous people that call this place their home. If you are considering hiking the GPT, please do so with extreme care for the land and the utmost respect for the locals living in this area.".

Carla Lange: "The GPT is not a hiking trail, it's an adventure and words do not do my experience on it justice. Travelling on the GPT was everything but easy (or necessarily fun all the time) but it returned it all and more. Essential pieces of equipment to bring on the GPT are your brain and intuition as well as humbleness, respect and openness for the land and people."

Matgorzata (Gosia) Gmerek and Paul Bostelmann: "The Greater Patagonian Trail Network is a challenging and rewarding adventure that leads one through diverse and breathtaking scenery. Far from crowds and often without seeing other people for days this experience was without a doubt the highlight of our hiking career. Packrafting and exploring the beautiful lakes and rivers allows to reach even deeper into these wonderful and wild ecosystems. This is no ordinary hike and absolute self-reliance and wilderness experience is a must."

1.2 Information to the GPT

The GPT is an informal route network therefore you will not find any “official” information. In the following I list all relevant resources that help to understand the GPT and to get prepared for an adventure on this route network.

1.2.1 The GPT Wikiexplora Article


The [Wikiexplora article to the GPT](#) 🌐 is the internet gateway to this trail system. It is the first semi-official landing point for anyone searching information online and provides an introduction to the GPT. Wikiexplora is the cradle where the GPT publication started in 2014 and remains the “online home”.

The Wikiexplora article comes with one weakness:

offline access while being on the GPT. Therefore the GPT Hiker’s Manual was created in 2017. With this the Wikiexplora article is now neither the only nor the best resource to the GPT but Wikiexplora provides an introduction to anyone “just browsing around” and gives access to the Hiker’s Manual and other relevant documentations.

Greater Patagonian Trail

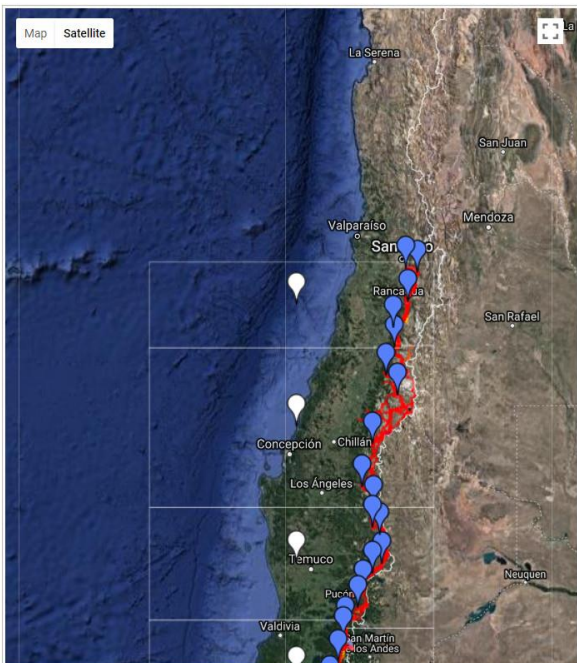
Me gusta A 13 mil personas les gusta esto. Regístrate para ver qué les gusta a tus amigos.



GPT16: Volcán Mocho on the background.

Contenido [ocultar]

- 1 Summary
- 2 Update in Progress
- 3 The Art of Walking on the GPT
 - 3.1 Statements about the GPT by Hikers and Packrafters
 - 3.2 Understanding the Trail
 - 3.3 Trail Length and Trail Type Composition
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 - 3.5 Understanding the Terrain
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 - 3.5.2.1 East to West
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 - 3.6.1 Northbound
 - 3.6.2 Southbound



Cuadro Resumen (editar)

Activity	Trekking
Location	Argentina, Chile, El Bolsón-Curicó
Scenery	Impresionante
Attractions	Vistas panorámicas, Glaciar, Bosque, Flora atractiva, Fauna atractiva, Lago, Laguna, Río, Fiordos, Formación Geológica, Cascada, Parque Nacional
Effort	971.3 dopihoras
Trail	Tramos sin sendero
Signage	Insuficiente
Infrastructure	Inexistente
Topology	Cruce
Gain/Loss (meters)	+116000, -116000
Distance (k)	3035
(*)	Regular Route (Hiking Option and Packrafting Option without Exploration Sections)
Mean altitude	900
Original creator	Jan Dudeck
KMZ file	Descargar KMZ

Me gusta 8 Compartir

Picture 8: GPT article on Wikiexplora

1.2.2 The GPT Hiker's Manual

This Hiker's Manual is the primary source of information to the GPT.

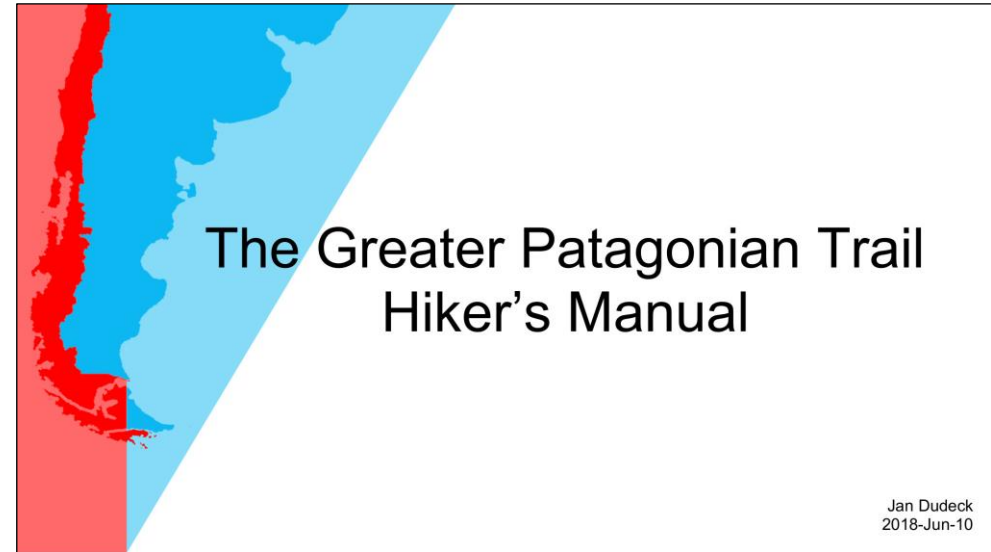
The Hiker's Manual consists of three parts:

- 1 Introduction and General Information,
- 2 Terrain and Section Information and
- 3 Appendix and Indices.

Chapter 1 provides a general overview and a good understanding of the nature of the GPT. You should be read the entire chapter 1 thoroughly if you consider hiking on this route network because this part of the Hiker's Manual guides you through your preparation.


Chapter 2 familiarizes you with the geography of the southern Andes and dives deep into each section of the GPT. This local knowledge is essential to thoughtfully select your route on this vast network and to prepare yourself for each section when actually hiking on the GPT. Therefore, parts of chapter 2 are important to read during the preparation phase while other parts will become your guide when hiking on the GPT.

Chapter 3 goes deep into specific topics. You will require this expertise for specific tasks i.e. when setting up your GPS or when calculating distances and estimated travel times. The Appendix also contains valuable additional information that benefit a profounder and ampler understanding of the GPT and the region that this this route network traverses.



Picture 9: GPT Hiker's Manual

The Hiker's Manual is currently not available on paper but only as a PDF document. It is designed to be read on a computer or on a smartphone while being online or offline. Therefore, it is issued in the screen-friendly 9:16 page format with letters large enough to be still reasonable readable on a small smart phone screen. When reading this document best use full screen slide mode in landscape orientation. Normal vertical scrolling is less practical. Install a suitable app on your smartphone if needed.

To navigate within the Hiker's Manual, click on the blue links i.e. the "Table of Contents" link in the right upper corner to jump directly to the main directory on page 7. From there you can jump in two steps to any chapter in this document. These blue document internal links work also offline. Hyperlinks to resources in the internet are also blue but have a globe sign  after the link. Such internet hyperlinks open only while being connected to the internet.

The Greater Patagonian Trail is an informal trail network that grows and changes regularly. And the documentation of this evolving trail network relies on the voluntary work of one author with a full-time job supported by a few collaborators. Therefore, this Hiker's Manual is not expected to be completed in the foreseeable future and will remain a growing and evolving document. This unfinished nature is intentionally made visible to readers by displaying empty chapters with red "**To be issued.**" remarks, similar comments in red and not hiding immature texts in the making. This shows what topics are planned to be covered with future updates and where contributions and reviews are welcome. Anyone who feels uncomfortable preparing his hike with such an unfinished documentation should rethink if he wants to travel on an unfinished and informal route network.

Updates and additions are now made first in the Hiker's Manual and not in the Wikiexplora article. Therefore, the last published version of the Hiker's Manual is the most current and comprehensive document available to the GPT. Note the publish date on the cover page in the right bottom corner and check occasionally for updates.

1.2.3 The GPT Track Files

The Greater Patagonian Trail is composed out of existing routes that were mainly made by the local settlers to serve their purposes. Hikers are unexpected guests on many of these trails. Only smaller parts of these routes have some kind of trail markers.

A good part the trails and cross-country routes remained undocumented until recorded and published digitally for the GPT. Therefore, suitable paper maps are often not available, and the few existing maps are inconsistent, of variable quality and insufficient to follow major parts the GPT.

The only reliable way to navigate on the GPT is therefore a GPS with the digital track and waypoint documentation that was specifically created for the GPT. This digital documentation with the relevant geographic information consists of multiple files in different file types and is called in the following “GPT track and waypoint documentation” or in short “track files”.

Hiker’s that feel uncomfortable being guided by a GPS need to learn and adapt to this form of navigation or discard the idea of hiking the Greater Patagonian Trail. Such hikers may resort to [the established public trails in Patagonia](#) that are better signposted and more suitable for classic navigation with paper maps.

The track files are provided on personal request by the author free of charge but not unconditionally. Read chapter [1.14 Code of Conduct on the GPT on page 150](#) and [1.15 Terms and Conditions for Using the Hiker’s Manual and the Track Files on page 153](#) to review these conditions and to understand why these conditions were put in place. Should you agree to these Terms and Conditions send an email to gpt.jan.dudeck@gmail.com 🌐 that expresses your consent and briefly outlines your plans. I will than provide a link where you can download the track files.

The various track files are packed in a single zip-file that is password protected. The password to unpack the zip-file is a 7-digit number. There are two ways to obtain the password.

Option 1: Print, read, fill and sign the [Declaration of Consent](#) 🌐 and send a scanned copy to gpt.jan.dudeck@gmail.com 🌐. If going for this option, then please send the filled and signed form when requesting access to the track files and describing your plans for the GPT.

Option 2: Calculate the password yourself! To do this read part 1 of this Hiker's Manual (Chapter 1: Introduction and General Information from page 8 and 162) and record the seven Track File Unlock Codes that are all placed in selected key chapters. Each unlock code is a random 6-digit number. The sum of all seven unlock codes is the password to open the zip-file with the track files. To show how these unlock codes look I'm providing here the first of the seven codes: Track File Unlock Code 1: 823547. Note this number and keep reading chapter 1 to record the remaining six codes.

With this method I want to ensure that the most essential aspects of this route network are understood and that the Terms and Conditions are formally accepted.

See also chapter [1.10.8 Maps and Navigation on page 136](#) and [3.2 Digital Documentation of the GPT on page 553](#) for more information to this subject.

1.2.4 The GPT Facebook Group

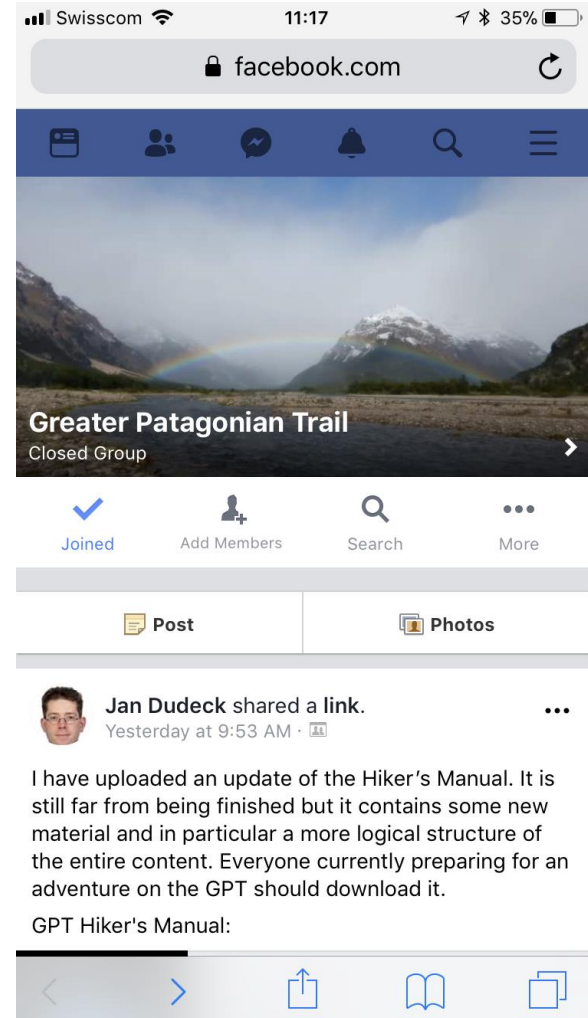
The informal and provisional nature of the GPT makes it relevant that hikers quickly exchange updates and recommendations while travelling on this evolving route network. For this purpose the GPT Facebook Group was created. Here all hikers can post brief summaries after completing a section and leave notes that might be beneficial for others that are en route. This can be information to temporary unpassable trail sections, volcano alerts, river conditions or anything that makes you think in hindsight: “I should have known this before!”.

The GPT Facebook Group may also be useful for individual hikers that plan to walk on this trail network and that seek others to join into small groups. Here you can post your hiking plans before you depart and link up with other hikers.

The GPT Facebook Group is also the location where I now notify hikers when updated track files are available and where I share other significant news to the GPT.

To become member of the GPT Facebook Group you need a Facebook account and request access with the following this link:

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/222224388283455?ref=bookmarks> 🌐



Picture 10: GPT Facebook Group

1.2.5 The Feature Film “Unbounded”

In the hiking season 2016/17 four novice hikers from North America and Europe walked parts of GPT to create a travel documentary. The result of this endeavour is the 74-minute feature documentary “Unbounded” by [Garrett Martin](#). This work of art displays fascinating impressions from the trail and highlights their cultural experience with the settlers and the natives along the route.

I highly recommend watching this film to all prospective hikers as part of their preparation. You can download or stream this film from [iTunes](#), [Amazon](#) or [Vimeo](#) 🌐.

This film focuses on the individual experience of these four hikers and does not aim to provide a comprehensive introduction to the GPT. Starting under-prepared and over-loaded they learned their lessons and gradually adopted to this challenging trail network. To draw the right conclusions for your hike read [my comments to this film](#) either before or better after watching.



Picture 11: Feature Film “Unbounded”

1.2.6 Publications to the GPT by other Hikers and Packrafters

With this Hiker's Manual and the article on Wikiexplora I aim to create a systematical introduction and a comprehensive documentation of the GPT. I intentionally try not to overload these documents with personal stories from the trail.

There is another reason why my writing is rather technical. I'm an Engineer by trade, I work as an inspector and issue inspection reports on a regular base. For this I need to carefully choose my words to be factual and precise, well descriptive but also legally sound. Story-telling is neither needed nor welcome in my inspection reports. And when numbers are available or when information can be structured into tables or charts than this is always preferred over well phrased verbal descriptions. You will notice that these writing habits also shape the Hiker's Manual and the Wikiexplora article.

Keeping my personal stories mostly out and maintaining this documentation rather technical benefits a systematic preparation but makes the Hiker's Manual and the article on Wikiexplora a bit pale. But for most hikers, and this includes me, the personal experience of the land and with the people are the dominating motives for such an endeavor. Therefore, to get a more personal insight to this trail read as part of your preparation some blogs written by hikers that travelled the GPT in recent years. In these blogs you find a much more personal account that shows the individual perception of the trail. Listening to other voices also illustrates how diverse the trail experience can be. Some blogs are very useful to participate on lessons learned by others to not repeat frustrating mistakes.

In the chapter [3.4 Other Publications to the GPT on page 656](#) you find a selection of blogs that I consider particular useful. I would love to share our personal stories from the trail in such a story-telling blog but writing and updating the GPT documentation is already an overwhelming task that consumes virtually all my available time.

1.3 The GPT Route Network

The Greater Patagonian Trail is not a hiking trail. Yes, you read correctly so let me repeat one more time: **The GPT is not a hiking trail.**

So, what is it then?

The GPT is an informal route network that consists mostly of trails, roads and cross-country routes that were not created with hikers in mind. Most of the trails were made by the local population to serve their purposes, i.e. to drive animals to summer pastures, to get to remote settlements and outposts or to extract wood from the forest. The routes that the GPT is composed of include:

- well maintained horse trails that are regularly used by the local cowboys (in Chile *arriero* or *puestero*, in Argentina *gaucho*),
- poorly maintained and neglected trails that are washed out, trenched and blocked by fallen logs,
- minor roads and simple car tracks that are occasionally used by all-terrain vehicles,
- trail-less cross-country routes in barren open terrain,
- a few short stretches of bush bashing through thick growth
- and where no more adventurous route was found also public roads with moderate transit traffic.
- Additionally, packrafters can cross mountain lakes, float down generally calm rivers and paddle in the Patagonian fjords.



Picture 12: GPT09: An *arriero* driving a flock of goats to a summer pasture. Image: Jan Dudeck

This diversity makes the GPT so authentic but also inconsistent and in parts challenging.

Since the GPT is an informal route network only few signposts and trail markers facilitate route finding and none of these signs and markers refer to the GPT. In national parks are some signs and trail markers, though these are often unmaintained and inconsistent. Outside of parks you may see sporadically sun faded strips of plastic, beer cans, tea pots or even cattle skulls hanging in a tree. Here the locals that regularly use these trails rarely need sign posts as they know their trails inside out and nobody else is expected to come.

On many of these trails a customary right-of-way applies but some routes cross private land and you often can't know what is where the case. Therefore, when you venture onto the GPT you are mostly an unexpected guest on trails that were not made for you and you will trespass over private properties. So be at least a respectful and friendly trespasser that can explain in Spanish what doing there.

Unlike many long-distance hiking trails, the GPT is not a single-line trail but a wide route network with countless options and alternatives. When hiking on the GPT you have the privilege and the task to compose your personal route by making many choices along the way. This makes every hike on the GPT a unique and incomparable experience¹. The

¹ Between publishing the GPT in 2014 and 2018 I'm not aware of two hikers (or teams of hikers) that opted for the same route combination.



Picture 13: GPT36H: Poorly maintained horse trail. Image: Jan Dudeck

amount of options and alternatives becomes evident when comparing the length of the current Main Route: approximately 3000 km; with the total length of all tracks: currently more than 16'000 km

The GPT starts in the outskirts of the Chilean capital Santiago de Chile at the terminal Metro station Puente Alto but has no clearly defined southern finish point yet. The current Main Route ends at the edge of the Southern Patagonian Icefield but an extension to Cabo Froward², Ushuaia or the Isla Navarino³ is under consideration. This is an uncertainty of 750 km⁴. Therefore, the actual length that someone may walk and paddle on the GPT depends highly on the individually chosen route, the start and the finish point and the method of travel (hiking or packrafting).

The GPT is not a trail that can be hiked efficiently. The trail will change you plans without asking and inevitably stop you from time to time and turn you around. Also, the period of normally suitable hiking weather is in parts quite short. In particular in the north you need to wait until December for the snow to melt and the rivers to fall to be forded safely. And fierce snow storms may make the route again impassable in late March or during April.



Picture 14: GPT22: Discussing route options with settlers on the trail. Image: Jan Dudeck

² Cabo Froward is the most southern continental point of Americas. South of it are only islands that are separated from the continent by rather narrow channels and fjords.

³ The Argentine town Ushuaia advertises itself as the most southern city on the planet and many ambitious hiking and cycling tours start or finish for this reason in Ushuaia. But the Chilean town Puerto Williams on the Isla Navarino is about 6 minutes of latitude (corresponds to 11 km) further south.

⁴ 750 km direct line. This corresponds to a walking distance of 1'200 km to 1'500 km for the planned southern extensions.



Picture 15: GPT07: Chatting and cooking with *arrieros* or *puesteros* in their *puesto*. Image: Meylin Ubilla

diverse nature instead. It's a trail for thoughtful discoverers who can accept being just guests.

All this makes the GPT a discovery network with a good portion of unpredictability but an impressive authenticity.

To learn more to this subject from other hikers read what [Piia's & Oliver's](#) 🌐 and [Bethany & Lauren](#) 🌐 conclude after their hike.

The recommended pace on this route network is the "appreciation pace". This pace gives you the time to make an attractive detour, i.e. to climb a summit next to the trail without worrying about your schedule. This adequate rate of advance permits you to accept the invitation of a *poblador* (settler) to share some cups of mate or to sit out a day of torrential rain in a *puesto* (improvised shelter) with an *arriero* (Chilean cowboy, also called *puestero*). This adapted velocity allows you to wait in front of a pass if the weather is too volatile to climb up or to spend a day or two waiting at a lake if it is too windy to paddle with your packraft.

This trail is therefore not suitable for hikers who are out to race a clock, that need to have full control and who measure their success in kilometers or miles. It's for hikers for whom completion is irrelevant but that count their enjoyable and eventful days in a pristine and

The GPT is divided into approx. 90 sections. Each section starts and ends at a road or a village with public transportation and links seamless to adjacent sections. Therefore, each section can be hiked individually, or several sections can be combined into a longer journey with connecting footsteps.

Most sections are between 40 km and 200 km long, offer no or only limited resupply choices en route and only few sections have optional exit routes to bail out of a section halfway. Therefore, most sections must be hiked from end-to-end without resupplying making sections the primary units for composing your hike and planning your resupply.

Each section has a section code to facilitate referencing to specific sections. The section code consists of the abbreviation **GPT** and a two-digit running number (**01** to **92**). Where the hiking option and the packrafting option take completely different routes there each option forms an individual section with the same running number but the letter **H** (**H**iking) or **P** (**P**ackrafting) is added to distinguish between the hiking version and the packrafting version. In addition to this code each section is also named after a dominating geographic feature (i.e. a volcano, a river or a lake), a national park it crosses or a town or village on the route.



Picture 16: GPT28P: Reaching the fjord Pitipalena at low tide. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 17: GPT Main Route: GPT01 to GPT40.
Image: GPSVisualizer.com

The sections **GPT01 to GPT40** form the current **Main Route** that spans approx. 3000 km from the outskirts of Santiago de Chile to the Southern Patagonian Icefield. These sections are published and verified and have been hiked and paddled in recent years by several adventurers based on the GPT documentation.

A further extension of the Main Route all the way to the southern tip of the continent is planned. The southern extension to Cabo Froward will add the 10 sections from GPT41 to GPT50.

Incorporating routes on the two islands Tierra del Fuego and Isla Navarino is also under consideration. The section numbers GPT60 to GPT69 are reserved for this extension on these most southern populated islands of Americas.

Packrafters can already choose from additional sections that connect the Main Route with the Patagonian fjords and that guide around the Northern Patagonian Icefield. These sections GPT70P to GPT92P are not south of the Main Route but to the west and connect with the Main Route in various locations between GPT22 and GPT36H. All these sections are planned in detail and offer some of the finest packrafting of the region. Some of these sections are not more demanding than packrafting on the Main Route while other sections require an expedition into completely unpopulated areas and combine tough hiking with exposed packrafting.

This diversity of routes makes it impractical to summarize the length of the GPT in one number. Only examples can be given. The below tables show the length and composition of the Main Route based on the current regular hiking route and the current regular packraft route. The packraft example does not include all possible packrafting but considers a packraft use only on the selected sections where this equipment is clearly more benefit than burden (Sections GPT17P to GPT39). This example excludes the not yet verified and very challenging exploration sections.

Regular Route from Section GPT01 to GPT40			
GPT01 to GPT40	Hiking	Hiking and Packrafting	Comment
Distance	3049 km	3020 km	Regular Route from section GPT01 to GPT40 without optional side trips and ascents to summits. Packrafting from section GPT17P to GPT39 only. Alternative routes, short cuts and optional side trip i.e. ascents to summits may substantially alter the actual distance and the ascent and descent. Distance travelled by ferry not included.
Elevation Gain and Loss	120000 m↑↓	94000 m↑↓	

Table 1: Trail Length of Main Route

Regular Packrafting Route from Section GPT17P to GPT39		
GPT17P to GPT39	Packrafting	Comment
Distance	1704 km	From section GPT17P to GPT39 packrafting it is highly recommended because on these sections carrying a packraft is more benefit than burden. Southbound Regular Packrafting Route without optional side trips. Excluding the exploration sections GPT29P and GPT30P.
Elevation Gain and Loss	36000 m↑↓	

Table 2: Trail Length of Packrafting Main Route

Trail Composition of Regular Route from Section GPT01 to GPT40						
Trail Type	Code	Hiking		Hiking and Packrafting		Comment
		Distance	Percent	Distance	Percent	
Trails	TL	1437 km	47.1%	1114 km	36.9%	Mostly visible trail on any terrain i.e. in open landscape or forest. Trails are primarily used by animals and rarely made for hiking.
Minor Roads	MR	972 km	31.9%	738 km	24.4%	Any route that could be used or can be used by a vehicle regardless if this road or car track is open for public use or not. Includes also abandoned roads that are not any more traversable by vehicles. Minor roads are without transit traffic. Hitch-hiking is rarely promising.
Cross Country	CC	276 km	9.0%	266 km	8.8%	Route that passes through open landscape without a visible continuous trail but also without dense vegetation. Sporadic animal tracks might be visible but may be misleading.
Primary Roads	PR	354 km	11.6%	147 km	4.9%	Public gravel or paved road with moderate transit traffic. Hitch-hiking is generally promising.
Bush Bashing	BB	12 km	0.4%	11 km	0.4%	Route that passes through overgrown terrain. Demanding and very slow advance.
Packrafting on Water				744 km	24.6%	Packrafting route composition see next table.
Ferry	FY	(145 km)	(4.7%)	(427 km)	(14.1%)	Lake, river and fjord crossing with a ferry or motor boat. This distance is NOT ADDED into the distance.

Table 3: Trail Composition of Main Route

Trail Composition of Regular Packrafting Route from Section GPT17P to GPT39					
Trail Type		Code	Packrafting		Comment
			Distance	Percent	
Packrafting			744 km	43.7%	Combined packrafting distance on water (Rivers, Lakes, Fjords). This is the distance where the actual weight of your backpack is zero because your packraft carries you and your backpack.
on Water	River	RI	362 km	21.2%	River downstream packrafting. Practically all rivers are one-way packrafting routes.
	Lake	LK	344 km	20.2%	Lake packrafting. Normally two-way routes but predominant wind direction may make one direction favorable.
	Fjord	FJ	39 km	2.3%	Fjord packrafting. Normally two-way routes but predominant wind direction may make one direction favorable.
Hiking			960 km	56.3%	Combined hiking distance on land. This is the actual distance where the packrafting gear is "death weight" in your backpack.
on Land	Trails	TL	392 km	23.0%	See above.
	Minor Roads	MR	378 km	22.2%	See above.
	Cross Country	CC	104 km	6.1%	See above.
	Primary Roads	PR	76 km	4.4%	See above.
	Bush Bashing	BB	10 km	0.6%	See above.
	Ferry	FY	(427 km)	(25.0%)	See above.

Table 4: Trail Composition of Packrafting Main Route

1.4 The GPT Terrain: Greater Patagonia

If you are considering exploring the Greater Patagonian Trail and wish to enjoy the experience, you must be open to experiencing the unknown diversity of this region. If your imagination of Patagonia is based on TV documentaries and travel magazine than you probably have seen primarily these three heavily hyped tourist magnets:

- the national park Torres del Paine,
- the glacier Perito Moreno and
- the surrounding of El Chalten with Mount Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre.

These are three truly amazing spots on the eastern edge of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field and are internationally known highlights of Patagonia. But these three frequently pictured attractions do not represent the Patagonian diversity. If your primary interest is visiting the heavily trod, famous places of Patagonia then stick to the national parks in the south and bus in between.

The GPT offers much more than this. The Greater Patagonian Trail is rather like a gourmet menu of different courses that allows you to experience the different tastes and textures of Patagonia. It connects the semi-desert of *Precordillera* with the Patagonian Icefields and the barren volcanos with the damp green rain forest.



Picture 18: GPT39: Cerro Torre. Image: Paul Bostelmann



Picture 19: GPT44: Glacier Perito Moreno. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 20: GPT45: Torres del Paine. Image: Jan Dudeck

The Greater Patagonian Trail crosses most of Patagonia and the adjacent regions to the north. For this reason I named the trail⁵ “Greater Patagonian Trail” when I started publishing in 2014. I coined the term "Greater Patagonia" to combine Patagonia in its traditional limits with the adjacent regions like "Greater London" includes the city of London and the surroundings⁶.

⁵ When initially publishing the GPT it was mostly a single-line trail with much less options and alternatives than today. It evolved in the following years into the vast route network but I opted to maintain the now established “trail” name.

⁶ “Greater” also hints that this is one of the longest trails in Latin America and simply a great trail.



Picture 21: GPT39: Fitz Roy. Image: Jan Dudeck

The GPT Terrain: Greater Patagonia

The limits of Patagonia are somewhat blurry. This makes it impractical to state where exactly the GPT gets into Patagonia. If taking the administrative limits of Argentina than you get in casting distance of Patagonia at the end of section GPT05 where you can view for the first time over the border into Argentina into the province Neuquén. But with a different understanding you enter Patagonia on section GPT13 where you ford the Río Biobío or on section GPT16 where you walk into the Chilean administrative region XIV (Región de los Ríos). You can be certain to have reached Patagonia on section GPT22 where you arrive at the first Patagonian fjord: the Estuarió de Reloncaví. For more information to this subject see chapter [3.6 Remark to the Limits of Patagonia on page 672](#) in the Appendix.

For me this discussion about the limits of Patagonia is irrelevant if I can walk and paddle through pristine and varied terrain. Actually, the less known regions north of Patagonia are for me the areas most attractive for hiking. Here you walk more distance high up in the mountains with broad views, here you find the more attractive trails and cross-country routes and here you meet the *arrieros* and the native *Pehuenche* people. Also, the climate is more favorable for hiking. During summer, rain is infrequent, and you can mostly enjoy sunny weather.

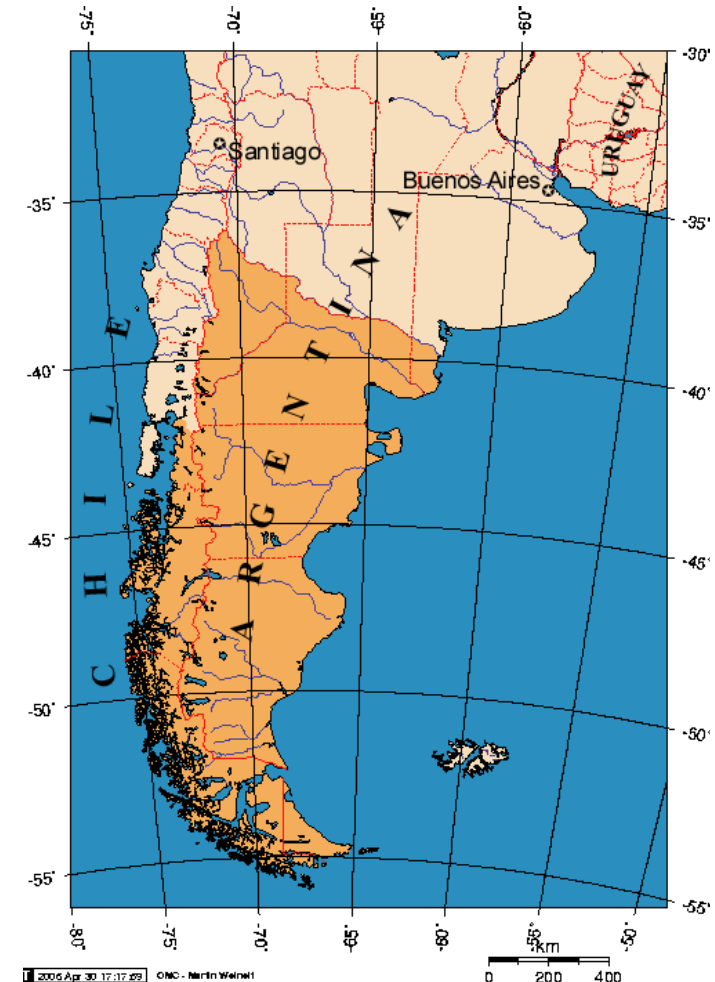


Picture 22: Historic map from 1860 presenting Patagonia as a country of its own. Image: Wikipedia

The GPT Terrain: Greater Patagonia

In contrast, when reaching Patagonia get ready for frequent and enduring rain. Also, don't expect to walk high up in the mountains in the heartland of Patagonia as there is simply no continuously high mountain range. In Patagonia high mountains are rather like islands that are surrounded by dense tempered rain forest in the west and a semi-desert-like Pampa in the east. These island-like mountains are separated by wide valleys that were carved by giant glaciers during past glacial periods. The wide valleys are now partly filled with lakes that drain their water in powerful rivers into the Patagonian fjords. Therefore, “real Patagonia” is best traveled by packraft because a packraft gets you on these lakes, rivers and fjords. In the following chapter [1.5 Packrafting the GPT](#) I provide an introduction into packrafting on the GPT.

To understand the diverse terrain in more detail read chapter [2.1.1 Diversity of Greater Patagonia](#) on page 170.



Picture 23: Approximate limits of Patagonia.
Image: Wikipedia

1.5 Packrafting the GPT

When I started planning my first long hike through Patagonia in 2013 I could not find a continuous hiking route south of Coñaripe (GPT16) because dense forest hides most of the trails on satellite images. But I could see calm rivers and lakes that bridged the gaps and I wondered if there exists a light enough boat to be carried in a backpack to traverse these waters. I googled and found the packraft. So, the initial cause for incorporating packrafting options were insufficient planning information and not my fascination for amphibious travelling. It was not until after our first hike that I could add additional hiking routes that now render a packraft expendable but not less beneficial.

In retrospect I'm happy that I had insufficient planning information at that time. Otherwise I would probably not have discovered the



Picture 24: GPT24P: Packrafting Lago Futalaufquen. Image: Jan Dudeck

packraft as the ideal hiking partner for Patagonia. A packraft does not carry only your backpack but it carries you! What matters in this “partnership” is a good balance; you don’t want to carry your packraft most of the time but benefit from it as much as possible. And this is the case on sections GPT17 to GPT39. Here the packraft carries you on more than 40% of the distance and this makes it a brilliant deal. Further north on sections GPT01 to GPT16 a packraft is more burden than benefit and I would only recommend packrafting if you specifically plan to explore a certain lake and the surrounding area.

When packrafting on lakes and rivers we normally do not exceed hiking speed so the packraft does not make us faster. In contrast, all the packing and unpacking and the extra weight slows us down. But speed is not our objective. What we seek is diversity and a packraft opens up some of the most epic routes in Patagonia.

The required packrafting gear adds about 5 kg to a solo hiker’s pack or 4 kg if shared in between two. You need a boat, paddles, a dry suite, a PFD (personal flotation device), an inflation bag and repair gear. A sail is optional. For an ultra-light hiker this is an unimaginable extra weight but if considering that the backpack weight drops on 40% of the distance to zero then this extra weight on 60% of the distance is a fair deal.



Picture 25: GPT18: Sailing Lago Pirihueico. Image: Jan Dudeck

What you need when packrafting is a dry suite; not only for comfort but as a life insurance. In Patagonia weather is volatile and water temperatures are normally low. Hypothermia can cause complete exhaustion and unconsciousness in less than 15 minutes if you get into a glacier lake with a water temperature at the freezing point. A dry suite can help protecting you in such situations. We were several times surprised by heavy wind, rain and even snow during lake crossings and the dry suite was our layer of defense till we reached a suitable landing shore. Without a dry suite your body temperature drops in minutes in such an adverse situation and with this you will lose your capability to act appropriately. Chill makes dumb and numb and transforms anyone into a stupid zombie regardless how experienced and prudent this person is at normal "operation temperature".

The extra weight of a dry suite is not that much if you replace your normal rain gear with it. And a dry suite is so much better than any rain gear, also when hiking. It keeps you completely dry and warm even when fording hip-deep glacier rivers. No rain gear does this. When we need to walk in cold rain or snow we put on our dry suite and we don't take it off until we have cooked our dinner and can slide in our sleeping bag or quilt.

If I can choose on a rainy day between hiking or packrafting than I do not need a blink of an eye to make my choice. Sitting in my boat protected by my dry suite



Picture 26: GPT38: The best bad weather gear: hiking with dry suite at Lago O'Higgins. Image: Jan Dudeck

make out of a nasty rainy day an enjoyable day on the water. Without a backpack on my back and with only moderate exertion I'm not sweating nor freezing, provided that I wear appropriate cloth below my dry suite. Protected with proper gloves and a cap on my head only the face is exposed to the elements. What stops us packrafting is only too strong wind and the resulting high waves, but not rain.

When we started investigating the GPT we had no pre-experience with packrafting or kayaking; we were complete novices. In hindsight I would have taken some packrafting or kayak lessons, just to get some practice and a better feel for such a water activity. While we lacked experience at the beginning we were very careful even with small rapids and did not paddle larger lakes. But we grew with every river and lake and gained slowly experience and confidence.



Picture 27: GPT27P: Floating down the Río Palena. Packed in dry suites, secured with a PFD (Personal Flotation Device) and the GPS and InReach at hand. Image: Meylin Ubilla



Picture 28: GPT36: Crossing Lago Chico on the Regular Packrafting Route. Expect low water temperature. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 29: GPT36: Crossing Lago Verde with no suitable landing shore nearby while a cloud with rain and snow rolls in. Image: Jan Dudeck

What is essential when packrafting is knowledge and respect of the hazards of water and good judgment. Great care must be taken to leave a river latest at the last recommended exit point because mortal rapids are often downstream even if you don't see or hear them at the last exit point. Streams change constantly with rising and falling water levels, riverbeds alter over time and the weather in Patagonia is volatile. The fact that someone took a particular water route before does not mean that it is safe anytime

later. Therefore, the track file for GPS is only an approximate guide and each packrafter needs to assess the situation himself; i.e. judge wind, waves and weather before attempting a lake or fjord crossing or scout a river rapid to decide if to paddle or to porter around.

Packrafting gear is not cheap. If you don't have it expect to spend about 2000 EUR or USD to buy the full set. That's a considerable investment but it's a lasting one if you treat it with care.

Before attempting to hike on the GPT evaluate careful what sections to travel and if carrying a packraft or not. For this you need to study in detail the [sections evaluation and trail type composition](#) to make a smart choice that fits your capabilities and expectations. Thanks to the length of the GPT it is easy to fill an entire hiking season either with pure hiking or with a balanced combination of packrafting and hiking.



Picture 30: GPT36H: Exit point out of Río Tranquilo just before a mortal waterfall. Make very sure to never miss the last recommended exit point. Image: Jan Dudeck

1.6 Thru-Hiking the GPT

This trail was not created to thru-hike Patagonia, it's a route network for immersion-hiking. The GPT does not get you through Patagonia but gets you deep into Patagonia.

With the recent extensions⁷ of the GPT the Main Route now spans about 3000 km in often difficult and slow terrain. With this extension the GPT became too long to be safely thru-hiked in one season⁸. An experienced thru-hiker may disagree as 3000 km is a bit shorter than the Appalachian Trail (AT) but the varied and unpredictable terrain makes this comparison inadequate.

Therefore, I do not recommend attempting a [thru-hike](#) 🌐 of the GPT, especially not this early in the development of the trail while the support system along and around the trail is in it's infancy. This focus requires rushing and taking less attractive short cuts, i.e. deviating from GPT to walk on gravel roads instead of following the existing trails. It

⁷ The 2016 extension added sections GPT01 to GPT05 in the north that enlarged the trail from the Descabezado Grande all the way to Santiago de Chile. The southern extension of 2017 added section GPT34H to GPT40 that stretches the Main Route from Lago General Carrera all the way to edge of the Southern Patagonian Icefield.

⁸ So far three hikers walked the length of the GPT in the attempt to hike the entire American continent from Tierra del Fuego to Alaska. One hiker walked the length of the GPT in one season by following the GPT where feasible but skipping parts of the GPT to road-walk around various sections that were not passable due to climate and seasonally closed borders. The two other hikers split the thru-hike of the GPT into two seasons and were therefore able to follow the GPT closer.



Picture 31: GPT22: My backpack with packrafting gear. Image: Meylin Ubilla

inhibits slowing down to fully appreciate the land and share time with the people along the route. And more important: someone who tries to thru-hike the GPT in one season needs to take unreasonable risks by throwing himself in torrential rivers and climbing to high elevations when fierce blizzards can kill because he cannot hike all sections in the appropriate season. And remember, when you walk on these trails you are just a guest on the land of others. Just the idea of racing through strangers' backyards is regarded a rude in these remote regions.

From a thru-hiking perspective the GPT is less than a long-distance trail. There is no clearly defined and well-marked single trail to blaze along, there is no thru-hiking community to trail talk and there are no trail angels providing trail magic. On the GPT hikers have no domiciliary rights; they are just unexpected guests. Also the packrafting options do not benefit thru-hiking as they do not make a traverse faster.

And what might be the biggest disappointment for some thru-hikers on the GPT: thru-hikers do not receive any special admiration because nobody along the trail distinguishes between thru-hikers, section-hikers, day-hikers, or tourists in general.



Picture 32: GPT11: The *puesto* of the *Pehuenche* family Carrileo near Guallalí. Image: Jan Dudeck

For respectful explorers the GPT is much more than a long-distance trail. It's a wide network of routes with many hiking options and packrafting in a diverse landscape. A unique blend of people lives along the trails making the hike more of a cultural experience. If approached with respect and interest, then these welcoming people will share much more than just the right-of-way regardless where you are coming from and where you are walking to. On this trail your willingness and capability to immerse yourself in this culture will be more relevant than the weight of your backpack.



Picture 34: Lauren Reed

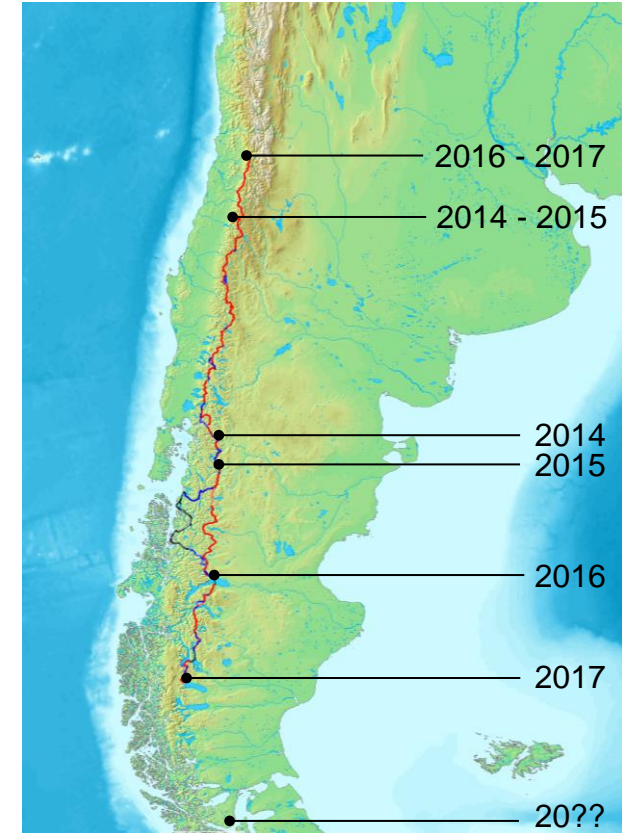
If you find an actual [Triple Crown Thru-Hiker](#) 🌐 more credible to speak about thru-hiking the GPT than read in the Appendix [how Lauren Reed \(Neon\) experienced the GPT](#) in comparison with the renowned US long distance trails. She was the first hiker to walk the entire length of the GPT in two seasons together with Bethany Hughes (Fidgit).



Picture 33: GPT11: Being guest of the family Carrileo. Image: Jan Dudeck

Someone who wants to explore the entire length of GPT should split this adventure into various seasons. This also facilitates hiking lightly where a packraft would just be a burden and to packraft were the extra weight really pays off. See chapter [2.3.7 Hiking and Packrafting Suggestions on page 236](#) for detailed recommendations. Having more than one season also gives the extra time to take some of the more demanding but rewarding options.

There is one more reason why a thru-hike of the GPT in the literal sense⁹ is not viable. Thru-hiking means walking a complete long-distance trail with connecting footsteps from start to finish typically in one season and this is only possible on well-defined trails with set start and finish points. That's nothing that can be said about the GPT. Between the first publication in 2014 and the update 2017 the trail end points made big leaps every season. And when I'm asked now in 2018 where the trail starts and ends I can only state that the GPT begins in the outskirts of Santiago de Chile but that the southern terminus is not settled yet. The southern finish is somewhere between Lago Viedma and the Isla Navarino; an uncertainty of about 1200 km to 1500 km walking distance.



Picture 35: The evolution of the GPT Main Route between 2014 and 2017.

⁹ In the United States, this term is most commonly associated with the Appalachian Trail (AT, approx. 3500 km), the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT, approx. 4300 km), and the Continental Divide Trail (CDT, approx. 5000 km), but also refers to other end-to-end hikes. In recent years this form of athletic hiking became quite popular in the US. This hype was fuelled by the movies [“A Walk in the Woods”](#) and [“Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail”](#)⁹ 📺. Also, in Europe and other parts of the world the term “thru-hiking” is now trending but often used incorrectly when referring simply to a long-distance hike.

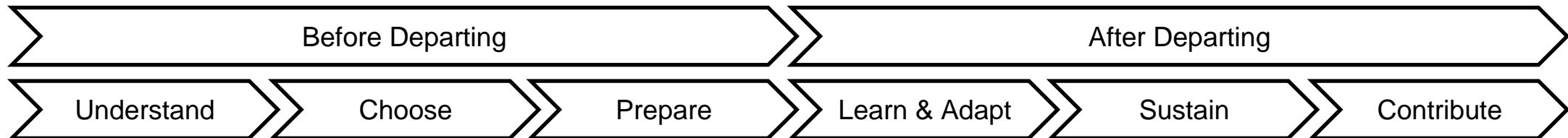
Attempting to thru-hike the GPT is like trying to study and memorising every word of a book that is still in the making with the first drafts informally shared for peer reviews; it's pretty pointless and assigns this evolving route network far too much authority. But this unfinished nature of the GPT makes it possible that ambitious hikers become co-authors of the GPT and this is a unique difference to established long-distance trails. You are not limited to just follow a given trail, but you can contribute to the GPT by adding your part to the still unfinished story.

[Michael Deckebach](#) 🌐 summarized this conclusion after his 5-months adventure on the GPT with the following words: "The Greater Patagonian Trail is awesome, but (...) not designed for "purists" who get satisfaction from completing every inch of trail or touching every white blaze. Can it be done? Probably, but why try and fit a square peg into a round hole?".

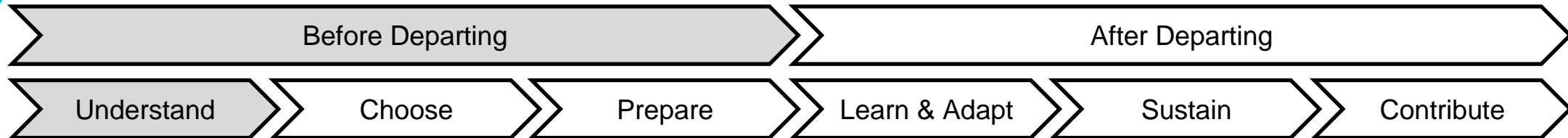
1.7 Guiding Principles for the GPT

In the last years I had numerous profound talks about the essence of long-distance hiking and what it takes to appreciate such an endeavor on the GPT in a sustainable manner. In particular [Piia Kortsalo](#), [Oliver Barker](#), [Bethany Hughes](#) and [Lauren Reed](#) were instrumental in developing the two guiding principles for the GPT:

- 1. Before you depart understand the GPT to make appropriate choices and get properly prepared.**
- 2. When being on the GPT adopt to the land and learn from the people to become a sustaining and contributing guest.**



In the following section I outline what applying of these guiding principles practically means.



1.7.1 Before you depart to the GPT

1.7.1.1 Before you depart: Understand

One of the most important skills before you depart on the GPT is your capability to read. In particular experienced hikers are at risk to make incorrect assumptions and rely on a false sense of expertise because the GPT is quite different compared to other long-distance trails. That's one of the reasons why some highly experienced thru-hikers failed to enjoy this trail; they did not understand the GPT and in consequence made inappropriate choices, departed unprepared and made frustrating experiences on the trail.

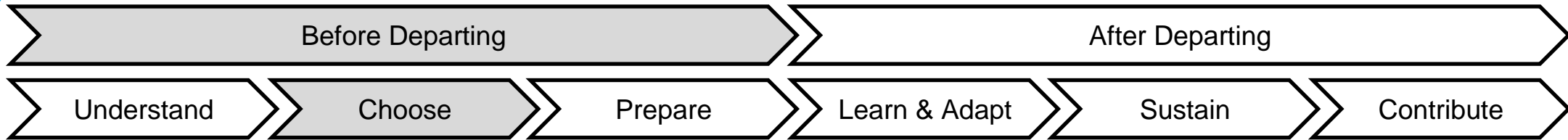
Therefore, read the entire Chapter 1 and maybe read it again. Follow the links to additional sources and read the [blogs of other hikers that walked on the GPT](#). These blogs are essential to get a wider and more personal perspective of the trail. Read about Chile and Argentina and learn more about Patagonia. The Hiker's Manual does not intent to be a sufficient source of information; it's just an introduction to make appropriate choices and a general guide how to get prepared.

Get the track files and virtually hike on the GPT by reviewing the tracks in detail in Google Earth. That's essential to better understand the landscape and the nature of this trail network. Get road maps and guide books for Chile and Argentina if you have not been to one of these countries before. There will be more than enough surprises along the trail so eliminate the avoidable surprises by understanding what you are considering doing.

If you find this Hiker's Manual too long, too repetitive and too confusing then be assured that the GPT is much worse. If your curiosity and patience runs out reading the GPT documentation then your patience and interest will run out rather quickly on the trail. If you don't make it to the end of Chapter 1 then better don't start with the GPT.

[Understand your motives and objectives](#) and be honest with yourself. The GPT is quite special and only a specific sort of hiker will appreciate this route network. If you watched TV documentaries and read magazine articles about Patagonia and you are now looking to get to these places, then the GPT is possibly not the right choice. Someone who looks for an athletic walking challenge or a thru-hike will quickly be driven into frustration by this weird route compilation. It's a discovery network and only hikers that wish to discover "Greater Patagonia" should contemplate with hiking and packrafting on the GPT.

If you have specific questions to the GPT that are not answered in this Hiker's Manual ask. Send an email to the author with your questions and the relevant background information (i.e. your hiking plans) to gpt.jan.dudeck@gmail.com. With the current volume of requests I can normally arrange a Skype call if I see genuine interest and that the available information is being read and digested.



1.7.1.2 Before you depart: Choose

1.7.1.2.1 The GPT or something else?

Don't take it for granted that the GPT is your trail. If you look for some “normal” hikes in Patagonia with limited time available then I suggest visiting the national parks and bus in between. There are good guide books available that describe numerous established hiking routes in detail. In particular if you don't speak Spanish stick to these better known and more visited places where you get along with a combination of rudimentary Spanish and English.

There are a couple of questions that quickly indicate if the GPT is a suitable choice for you or not. If you answer any of the following questions with a “No” than better consider other trails:

1. Do you have reasonable good conversational Spanish skills?

Could you explain to a local resident in Spanish what you are doing there on his land and keep up in a more confrontational conversation if necessary? Can you discuss with *arrieros* and settler route options? Can you ask for bus times and bus stops, buy tickets, navigate through towns, inquire prices and this with people that do not speak any English?

2. Do you have extensive Outdoor experience?

Long distance hiking experience is not required but being competent in moving and living under the sky in different landscapes is crucial on this trail (desert-like landscapes, forest, steppe, tundra).

3. Do you really look for a demanding unpredictable discovery hike?

Can you deal with being unable to plan your trip in detail? Do you mind walking in trail-less terrain and fighting occasionally your way through overgrown parts by navigating with a GPS? Are you willing to backtrack if a route turns out impassable?

4. If coming from overseas: Do you have at least four weeks in Chile and Argentina available?

If coming from far away and having less than four weeks than visiting the established hiking areas is more appropriate and effective to see several parts of Patagonia. For people living in Chile and Argentina it is certainly an option to explore this route network piece by piece in several shorter trips.

5. Do you have a monthly budget of approximately 1000 USD after having paid your gear and the airfare?

Don't undermine the cost of living in Chile and Argentina. With some cost saving strategies you may get along with a little less but 800 USD per month per person is the recommended minimum budget. Read also chapter [1.8.17 Cost of Travelling on page 119](#) to this subject.

If you answered all five questions with "Yes" then note the Track File Unlock Code 2: 733392. You will need this number later to open the track files. But be honest with yourself! If you answer any of these questions with "No" then this route network might disappoint you, drive you into frustration and put you in harm's way.

If coming to the conclusion that the GPT is not (yet?) the right choice for you then you may opt for the more established trails in the national parks. These established trails don't lack beauty and in part coincide with the GPT. Check out the available trekking guide books i.e. the lonely planet guide "Trekking in the Patagonian Andes" from Carolyn McCarthy or if you read German, use the Rother Wanderführer "Patagonien und Feuerland" from Ralf Gantzhorn and Thomas Wilken to choose from a wide section of routes. I started hiking with the lonely planet guide book and these hikes became the foundation to investigate and publish the GPT years later.

In the Appendix you find a list of suggestion with more [established hiking areas in Patagonia](#).

In the Appendix you find also additional information where and how to arrange a [horse-riding tour](#). This is an excellent way to explore parts of "Greater Patagonia" more guided and to get an authentic experience of the *arriero* culture from the saddle perspective. A horse-riding tour can also complement a hike.

1.7.1.2.2 If choosing the GPT

If you opt to hike on the GPT than you must take several decisions while you prepare your hike.

1. Do you want to hike only or do you want to packraft as well?

The answer to this question will determine the equipment you need and what parts of the GPT to tackle. You can easily fill an entire season with hiking on sections that are very attractive for walking but where carrying a packraft is not beneficial. The same applies to packrafting: you can easily fill four to five months packrafting in areas where having such a light-weight boat really pays off. I suggest opting for the one or the other and not mingling both choices into one season except if you have a trustworthy place in Chile to leave your packrafting gear while hiking without your (loved) boat.

2. Do you want to hike a continuous part of the GPT with connecting footsteps or do you want to visit several separated parts?

For some hikers connecting footsteps are an essential concept and motivator to stay on track while others don't mind bridging a less attractive part by public transportation or hitchhiking. Choose what is appropriate for you. And please, do not look down on others but respect individual choices. Hike your hike.

3. Do you want to follow the regular route or will you attempt in some areas more remote investigation and exploration options?

The answer to this question is really a matter of personal interest and capability. I have intentionally created the GPT as a wide network with as many options as feasible because I'm fully aware that my way of walking with my personal preferences is not everyone's best choice. For hikers that are accustomed to follow a single trail this might be irritating but for such hikers

the GPT is probably not the right route anyway. You will finally need to take these decisions on the trail but you need to get prepared taking these decision before you depart on the GPT. Therefore, start your hike in Google Earth by looking at these options to make educated choices on the trail. One hiker summarized this variety with these words: “The GPT is a mosaic out of which everyone needs to assemble his trail.”

4. **What sections do you want to hike or packraft?**

Select carefully the sections that you plan to hike. And don't fill your plate with more than what you can reasonably eat. Get prepared and plan your route but leave it open end. See chapter [2.3.7 Hiking and Packrafting Suggestions on page 236](#) for recommendations.

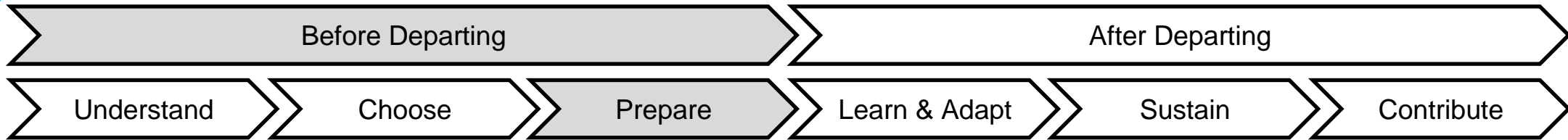
5. **When and for how long do you want to travel?**

Understand the suitable timing of the different sections and align your travel plans accordingly. Certain sections became passable relatively early in the season during spring while others can only be hiked safely in summer after most of the snow is molten and the river levels normalized. Don't assume wrongly that you will face more restrictions in the south. It's the opposite; the more mountainous northern sections have the smaller seasonal window while the generally lower southern section's permit an earlier start or later finish even if the climate is generally more volatile in the south. If you have an entire season, then plan sections for the end that are less restricted by the climate. See chapter [2.3.9.3 Travel Timing Recommendation on page 249](#) for timing recommendations.

6. **In what direction do you want to travel?**

If you packraft than several key sections are only floatable southbound what determines the generally recommended

packrafting orientation. But some optional packrafting routes can only be taken northbound. Verify your choices carefully otherwise you may reach a river that just flows in the “wrong” direction! If you are hiking you are freer to choose and change your direction of travel. Only at certain section you might run into permit issue if you made a wrong choice. See chapter [2.3.8 Preferable Travel Direction on page 238](#) for travel direction recommendations.



1.7.1.3 Before you depart: Prepare

It should be obvious to every reader that this trail requires extensive outdoor experience and quite good navigational skills in the different kinds of landscapes. It's no trail for outdoor novices. Therefore, I will not go into detail and will not attempt to write a general outdoor guidebook. Someone who would need this does not need (yet) a trail like the GPT. Be honest with yourself and review if you have the required skills and experience for such a demanding and unpredictable trail.

If you opt to hike or packraft along the GPT and your Spanish is still insufficient, then learn and improve your Spanish. Since you are just a guest on an informal trail network you need to explain to *arrieros*, *Pehuenche*, *pobladores*, *Carabineros* and *Gendarmaría* what you are doing and ask for permission to pass. You need to ask also for direction, organize your resupply by either figuring out what is available on the route or taking public transportation to resupply towns off the trail. For this you need to ask locals for bus schedules and bus routes. I'm not planning to include such detailed information in Wikiexplora or the Hiker's Manual because bus schedules change too often. You need to ask the locals along the trail when you get close to a section end. In particular rural buses have rarely published time tables but local residents know when to wait where for a bus. Don't expect anyone along the trail to speak English. Only in the tourist town and national parks with an international profile you will somehow get along with English.

Study the route network that is relevant for you including the optional side trips and escape or exit routes. Get prepared to wisely

apply the following principles during your hike: Select and Skip, Combine and Flip. For this you need to know and understand the route network before you leave. In Google Earth you may add your personal notes in form of waypoints and transfer them with the GPS trail files to your GPS.

Become an expert in setting up the GPS track files on your GPS device and your backup navigation systems i.e. a smart phone or a InReach satellite pager. Exercise how to follow a track on your GPS if you never done it before. It's not as simple as it seems. Test the battery running times of your GPS and your emergency satellite communicator to plan your recharging on the trail. Test also the record function of your GPS to record tracks and waypoints. This is part of the terms and conditions for using these files.

Don't undermine this tech stuff and don't postpone it to the end! A good proportion of the hikers that attempted walking on the GPT experienced substantial struggles because they lacked these "nerdy" skills. Some hikers were stopped by issues as simple as not being able to make an already uploaded route visible on the GPS device. Others got stuck in overgrown terrain and had to back-track several days because they did not manage to upload the latest update of track files correctly¹⁰.

If you opt to packraft then get familiar and exercise packrafting before you start. Ideal would be a training course that provides instructions and practice for whitewater with rapids up to Class III. To my understanding the minor rapids that we paddled on the regular route of the GPT were up to Class II and we were able to porter all rapids to appeared more challenging to us. To have a safety margin you should be able to manage rapids that are one Class higher than what you will probably face on the GPT. In this remote area you should simply not go to your limit. If you do not find a good packrafting course then a kayak course will be equally

¹⁰ The irony was that the update included a greatly improved route for exactly the area where these hikers got stuck.

helpful to gain the required knowledge and experience. Test how to pack and prepare your packraft to not start experimenting on the first lake or river that you will reach in Patagonia.

Do you know how to cook your meals in the outdoors? You probably do if you are reading this Hiker's Manual but do you know how to prepare a filling and delicious meal with the different supplies available in mountains in Chile and Argentina? Being a creative cook is a very useful skill on the GPT and getting prepared for the GPT means also widen your food range and cooking methods. Did you ever try *harina tostada* (roasted ground cereals)? Do you know how to harvest, open and prepare *piñones*? Do you bake bread while hiking? Flour is i.e. something more readily available on the trail because people normally bake their own bread in remote areas. The herdsmen and settlers often carry large sags of flour on horses or mules to their *puestos* and taught us that making your own bread in the wild is quite simple. It is a skill that we regularly appreciate to stretch our food reserves to stay longer on the trail. So is cooking over fire. The *arrieros* hardly ever carry a camping stove and cook normally on camp fires. Where permitted and sustainable we also do this and our cooking gear is selected to be suitable for cooking on fire. But be very careful; wild fires are a severe danger and in most national parks open fires are strictly banned and severely punished.

I'm not providing and I'm also not planning to provide a specific and detailed gear list with my personal equipment choices and recommendations. I provide only some general guidance and examples of what other hikers used with success. Suitable gear is essential, but it must be suitable for you and what you are comfortable and skilled to use. So far appreciation and disappointment on the trail was rarely linked to gear but primarily to attitude. Being light is good and important but not all aspects of the ultra-light philosophy are suitable for this route network. Therefore, if you have not read yet about ultra-light equipment and ultra-light strategies read about it as part of your preparation but don't take it as sole source of instructions.

1.7.1.4 Before you depart: Be careful doing this:

There is one thing you should be very careful with: Public announcements before you depart!

So far I observed: As more ambitious the announcement as less was actually archived. There are a few positive exceptions to this rule but low-key hikers covered often more ground and appreciated the trail more compared to ambitious people that published challenging plans before they departed.

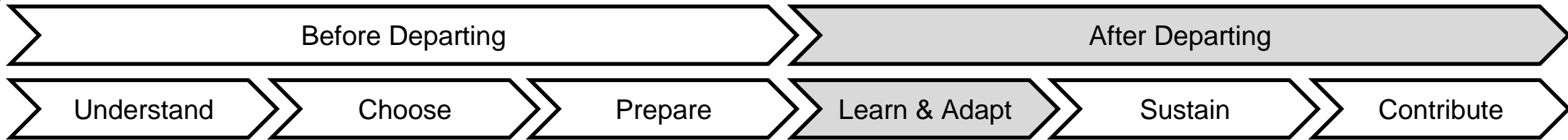
Let me share the most hilarious example: One loud-mouth and wannabe thru-hiker grabbed in 2016 the name "Greater Patagonia" that I coined years before for the trail and used it without asking to create a web domain and to name his would-be expedition. He presented himself as the "founder of Greater Patagonia", seemingly proud that he plagiarized the name that someone else created and filled with content years earlier. On his attention-grabbing webpage he loudly and proudly announced a "1500 mile thru-hike of the Greater Patagonian Trail". He used this page to ask for donations, to seek sponsors and candidates to join his team ("... applications accepted ..."). He even got T-shirts printed proclaiming this ambitious plan. But after he started his journey it took precisely 7 days till he aborted the thru-hike. He then took buses to travel primarily from national park to national park to visit a couple of the more established trails to take the much-needed selfies. This change of plans was actually a wise decision. What is ridiculous so, is that he still makes it appear as he actually hiked and paddled 1500 miles through Patagonia because he is haunted by his pretentious annunciation. This claim of having hiked and paddled 1500 miles is not just an exaggeration; it's a blunt lie and in hindsight I can only conclude: Too proud to be prudent, too vain to be honest!

In the same season at the same time several other hikers and packrafters started in the same area without having loudly proclaimed their intentions. These low-key hikers covered more distance and really immersed into the land along the GPT what made

it such a stunning experience for most of them. They were open to learn and free to adapt to the trail while each of them hiked their hike. They could find their pace without being chased by a public proclamation that they set free before they departed and that constantly lurked in their backs.

If you really believe that you need to publish your plans before you depart then do it in a humble manner and as a tentative plan. Don't pose as a winner before you start and share your lessons learned while being on the trail but latest after you concluded your journey. Don't build ruins of pride by publishing your mission statement without having the courage to honestly state how your mission developed and terminated. And don't worry if you aren't a flawless hero in your endeavor; glossy braggers are rarely loved for their self-display. Most people admire authenticity and you are authentic if you openly share your misses, struggles and lessons learned.

A personal note: I published my first word about my hikes in Patagonia after I have traveled this area 9 times and more than a decade after my first visit. What you find now in this Hiker's Manual is the result of a deepening relationship with this unique region that started back in 2002.



1.7.2 When being on the GPT

1.7.2.1 When being on the GPT: Learn and Adopt

The GPT requires a detailed preparation but refuses to be planned in detail. Therefore, regardless how well prepared you depart your high-flying ambitions will be grounded pretty soon if you are not ready to learn and if you are unwilling to adapt to the trail. It's a trail for the humble; not for the proud.

Apply the following principles to the various sections during your hike: Select and Skip, Combine and Flip.

1.7.2.1.1 Select and Skip

Readjust your plans while hiking. Sometimes you may be forced to skip sections. There might be a river that is too high and too powerful to be forded safely or a land owner that does not want to let pass anyone. A raging wild fire might force you to wait or to skip a part of the trail. But also the numerous volcanoes along the route can change your plans without asking for your consent. In the last 10 years there were 3 major eruptions on or close to the route and numerous alarming hiccups of not so dormant volcanoes. If you advocate connecting footsteps be mentally prepared that you may need to make compromises. If you need to leave a gap in your line of steps don't take it as a defeat but as adapting to this land.

1.7.2.1.2 Combine

If you want to spend more time on the trail and less time in buses and towns than add several sections into longer hiking legs without leaving the trail to resupply. Especially in the northern half of the GPT resupplying at a “full range supermarket” requires leaving the trail¹¹. A resupply trip to a town off the trail might easily take between one and three days but a section end is no obligation to resupply; it’s just an option. We combined up to four sections into a long hiking stretch without getting off the trail. Other hikers did the same for equal reasons.

Staying two to three weeks on the trail is an excellent immersive experience that becomes even more eye-opening if you resupply with what you can source on the trail. In the *Pehuenche* region we sometimes filled our stomach with *piñones* (*Araucaria* seeds) that are the traditional staple food of the indigenous people. If you are in the *Araucania* region in late summer or early autumn you have an [unlimited supply of free food on the trail](#). We sometimes [buy a goat or lamb and ask the seller to prepare it](#) with us and we share an extended dinner with our hosts. When we move on we carry plenty of cooked meat for the following 3 to 4 days. Sometimes you can buy freshly baked bread or even cheese from the locals along the trail. That’s why our food rations last often much longer than originally planned.

1.7.2.1.3 Flip

Most sections can be hiked southbound and northbound and also the packrafting on lakes and fjords is often feasible in both directions. Use these choices when suitable. If you was forced to skip attractive sections you may come back later and attempt them in the opposite direction if it suites more from a logistical point of view. Also, some of the exploration options are better

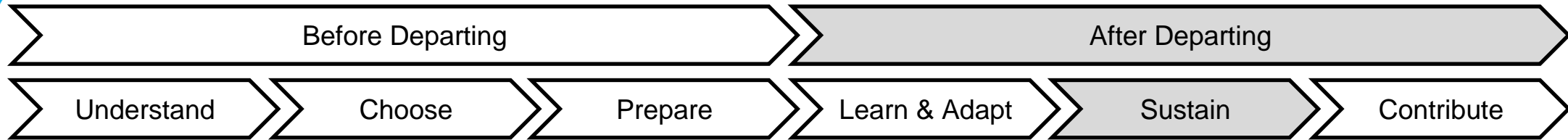
¹¹ And on the southern half of the GPT you will have even less such “full range supermarkets” even in the towns and villages off the trail.

investigated in a particular direction that might be opposite to your general direction of travel. Therefore, be open-minded to change the direction of travel if favorable.

1.7.2.1.4 Learn and Adapt

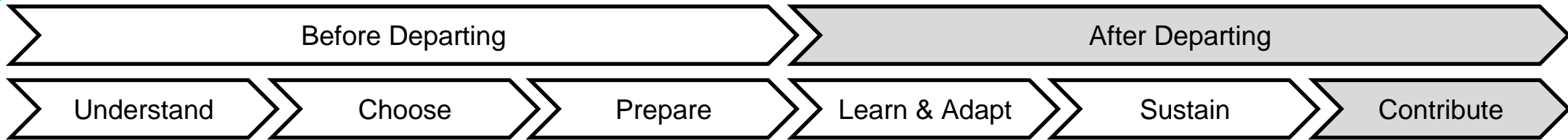
The learning and adopting applies to various aspects of your hike i.e. your resupply strategy, your gear and how to interact with the people along the trail. What really matters on this trail is your openness to learn and willingness to change. This requires questioning yourself and scrutinizing your best practices that served you so well on other trails in other regions. Especially experienced hikers may struggle doing this. This is one reason why seemingly less experienced hikers enjoyed the trail more and covered more ground than some highly experienced Thru-Hikers. A healthy portion of self-doubt enables to learn and adapt while being on the trail.

If you have not used a GPS previously than this is one aspect in which you need to learn and adapt. I'm sometimes puzzled by the aversion that some hikers express against using a GPS. These hikers are deeply convinced that this technology will spoil their trail experience without having actually learned how to use GPS and without having experienced the effect of a completely silent travel companion that knows the route but speaks only when asked. When I receive such emails asking how to best hike the GPT without GPS than I can only reply: Learn and Adapt!



1.7.2.2 When being on the GPT: Protect by being a Sustainable Guest

To be issued.



1.7.2.3 When being on the GPT: Contribute

The GPT is not a public trail and no agency or foundation cares for this trail network. Therefore, contributions of hikers are essential to keep the GPT documentation up to date and to investigate new routes. There are multiple ways to contribute:

1. **Provide a summary of your hike**, by listing:

- all sections and options that you hiked together with
- the section timing (start date for each hiked section),
- the section hiking duration (number of days on each section),
- the section hiking direction and section combinations (multiple sections hiked “in one go” without resupplying in between)
- and a summary of the route condition for each section and each hiked option.

Providing a brief summary to all hiked sections is important also when everything worked perfectly fine. Otherwise only problems receive attention what may create false perceptions. To refine the [Section Travel Timing Recommendation](#) feedbacks from other hikers are essential especially from hikers that tackle a section at the beginning or the end of the hiking season. You may email your summary to the author by using the email gpt.jan.dudeck@gmail.com or post your summary in the [GPT Facebook Group](#) to make it instantly available to other GPT hikers.

2. **Record your tracks by GPS**, regardless if walking on an already verified trail or if exploring an unverified investigation route. Both is important to keep the trail file updated and expand the network. A full GPS record shows perfectly well where a hiker got briefly disoriented, which variants he chose and how he managed a cross country or bush bashing section where not defined route exists. A number of such full GPS records for each section from each season are required to keep the track files updated.
3. **Record useful waypoints by GPS** that are missing in the track files. Send these waypoints together with a comment to the author for review and publication. These may be water holes in particular dry regions where water planning is required or settlers that offer food and accommodation or suitable camp spots in areas where such places are rare and hidden. The objective is not a full documentation of all imaginable waypoints but limit the waypoints to what seems useful to know in hindsight. In example suggest a Diversion waypoint where you took a wrong turn or got lost as this means for future hikers "Watch out, there is a tricky point where your auto-pilot may misguide you!".
4. **Investigate new routes**. The GPT trail files contain numerous investigation and exploration options. Some investigation routes are minor improvements of the regular route that appear better in hindsight but remain to be verified on the ground. These minor investigations can be done by most hikers. But investigating some of the more demanding exploration options require an expedition that should only be attempted by hikers and packrafters that travelled Patagonia previously. If you have the required experience and the adventure appetite to investigate such unverified routes, then contact me and I can share the information and expertise I have. When hiking the GPT you may explore and record these options and extend the trail network with your distinct contribution.

5. Provide **feedbacks, edits and additions to the GPT documentation**. Trail conditions change rapidly. I.e. a track that we walked 5 years ago easily is now described as badly overgrown by bamboo and barely passable. Knowing this in advance does not cut the way free but facilitates planning and prevents confusion when hitting such a trail section. Every hiker can record such observations and share them with future hikers. Don't be a sluggish consumer that niggles on the imperfections but take ownership by guiding the hikers of the following seasons with your contributions.

A best practice of contributors is keeping notes as you go and sharing your feedbacks and recommendations in the GPT Facebook group whenever feasible. When you save i.e. a new useful waypoint record your considerations soon after together with the waypoint identifying number. Keeping notes as you go is important as the length and variety of this trail can muddy specifics and details if you wait until the end of the hike to document observations. One successful method is writing observations into an email draft arranged by sections on your smart phone and send this email during a resupply town stop or use these notes to issue Facebook post.

When reading this documentation, you notice that I'm not a professional writer and that this work lacks editing. If you have a good command of the English language and wish to work on this documentation you are more than welcome regardless if hiked on the GPT or not.

In this Hiker's Manual you find many blank spots. I.e. most section descriptions are not written yet. If you hiked on the GPT you may become a co-author by issuing such summarizing descriptions with your hindsight conclusions that you consider relevant for future hikers. Get in touch with me by email using gpt.jan.dudeck@gmail.com or ping me on Facebook.

1.8 The Host Nations of the GPT

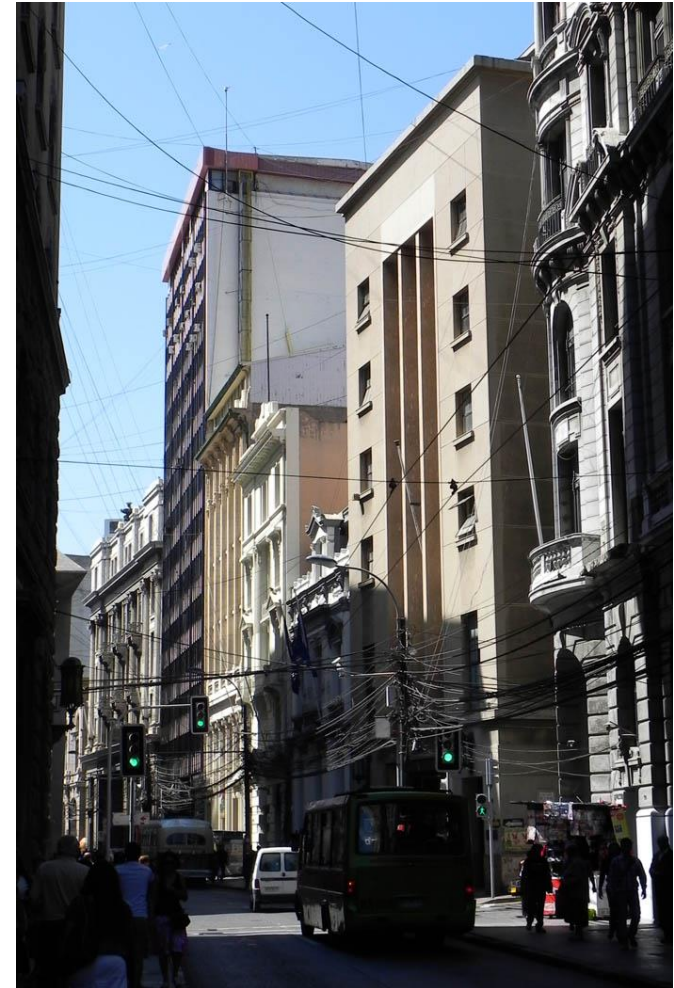
1.8.1 Chile and Argentina

The Greater Patagonian Trail is located in South America in Chile and Argentina. These two countries are sometimes referred to as the “Southern Cone”. About 86% of the current Main Route is located on Chilean territory and 14% is on Argentine soil.

People that are not familiar with this continent often mingle all their associations of Latin America into one scary-lovely medley. If they listen a news report about unrest in Venezuela it also stains their imagination of Chile and Argentina because they think it's next door. And when they listen Chile; they instantly think that Chileans must eat spicy food like the Mexicans because it's called Chile. But like any other continent¹² Latin American it a socially, politically and economically diverse continent with quite different nations.

If you are interested in hiking the GPT but you never have been to Chile or Argentina than start with getting a good understanding and knowledge of these two countries. I'm not attempting to provide a comprehensive introduction to the Chile and Argentina with the following paragraphs. I mainly focus on a few trail specific aspects that you probably will not find in guide books.

¹² with the exception of Antarctica

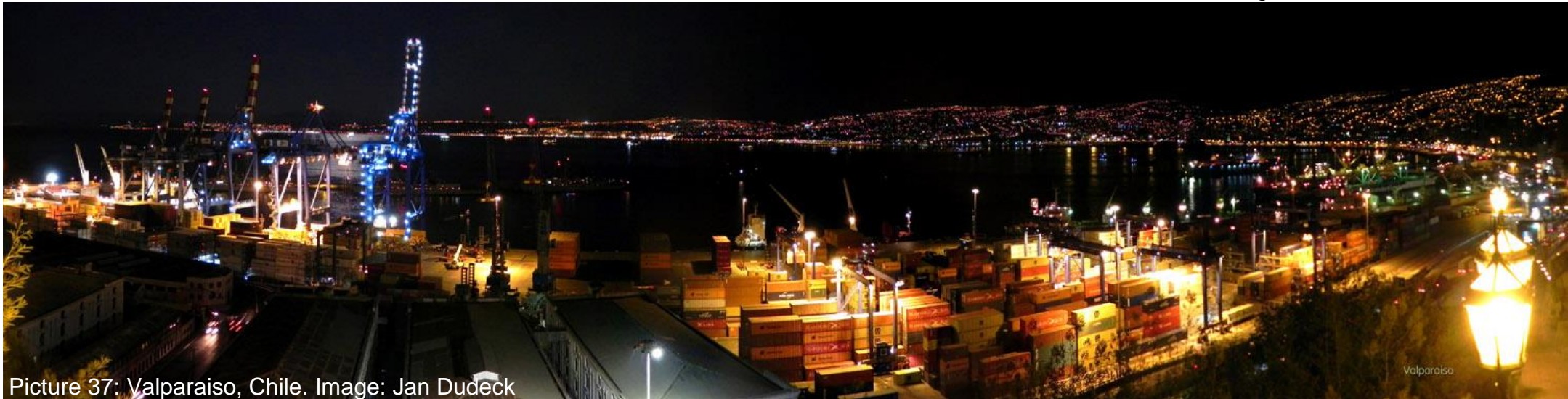


Picture 36: Valparaíso, Chile. Image: Jan Dudeck

Chile and Argentina are not developing countries like their neighbor Bolivia. Chile and Argentina are very much like western countries but with a high inequality of wealth and income. Both countries are on a global scale reasonably stable and healthy democracies, Argentina may be with a bit more populism and corruption than Chile. Both countries have reasonable good working institutions i.e. a police force that keeps most of the country reasonable safe. And both nations have their social struggles, economic challenges and political scandals like many others.



Picture 38: Santiago de Chile, Mercado Central. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 37: Valparaíso, Chile. Image: Jan Dudeck

Chile and Argentina receive a lot of tourists and there is not much xenophobia. It's quite the opposite; tourists are welcome and received with hospitality as long as they don't pretend to belong to a superior race. After three centuries of colonization and two centuries with sometimes heavy outside interference people have a fine sense for any form arrogance. And if they sense it they will often not speak up¹³ but expect to receive reservation and poor service in turn. And that's a pity because Argentines and Chileans are normal open and interested people that treat guests with honest geniality.

If you are from outside of Latin America accept to be called a *gringo* in particular if coming from Europe or North America. In the Southern Cone this term has no negative intonation¹⁴. The label *gringo* implies that this person is bit ignorant of the local customs who needs to be treated with leniency. Try to surprise your counterpart with good Spanish skills and knowledge about his country!

¹³ Especially Chileans learned to swallow their objections during 17 years of a military dictatorship.

¹⁴ Unlike in Mexico and Central America where gringo has a negative intonation.



Picture 39: GPT36H: Being the guest of Irma and Lorenzo at El Brown on the shore of Lago Cochrane. Image: Jan Dudeck

1.8.2 The People of Chile and Argentina

This generalization of people from far away (all are *gringos*) is contrasted by a classist thinking about their own nation, especially in Chile. A few super-rich own and control most of the country, a stressed middle class (living mainly in the cities) tries hard to keep up and many simple living people (which make the majority in rural areas) learned to live a tranquil life with rather little. The different groups and social classes distinct between each other and rarely mingle; they live in different quarters; send their children to different schools and vacation in different places.

What you do not see much more is extreme poverty. Since the end of the military dictatorship in 1990 a center-left government runs Chile for most of the time. This government was quite successful in fighting extreme poverty and improving the infrastructure in rural areas. And hikers benefit from it in several ways. When hiking in Chile and Argentina you will not experience begging as this is the case in the neighboring countries of Bolivia and Peru. Also, roads are built in rural areas, which is a mixed blessing from a hiker's perspective. On one side these roads greatly facilitate resupplying and getting to the trail heads but on the other side they also replace horse trails that are nicer to walk. The government also subsidizes public transport into particular remote places that are not served by profit-oriented private bus and ferry companies.



Picture 40: GPT20 and GPT21: Subsidized ferry on Lago Rupanco that serves remotely living settlers and now also hikers. Image: Jan Dudeck

Along the trail you will primarily meet people with a small and often irregular income but this does not constrain their hospitality. In contrast, the rich fence off their properties but the modest living people often open their doors and invite strangers to literally share their bread. When you experience such hospitality be generous. Even if they don't ask for money and seems to reject it be a happy giver. Insist if necessary! Consider that more hikers will come after you and that it would be unreasonable to drain their small income to feed tourists like you.

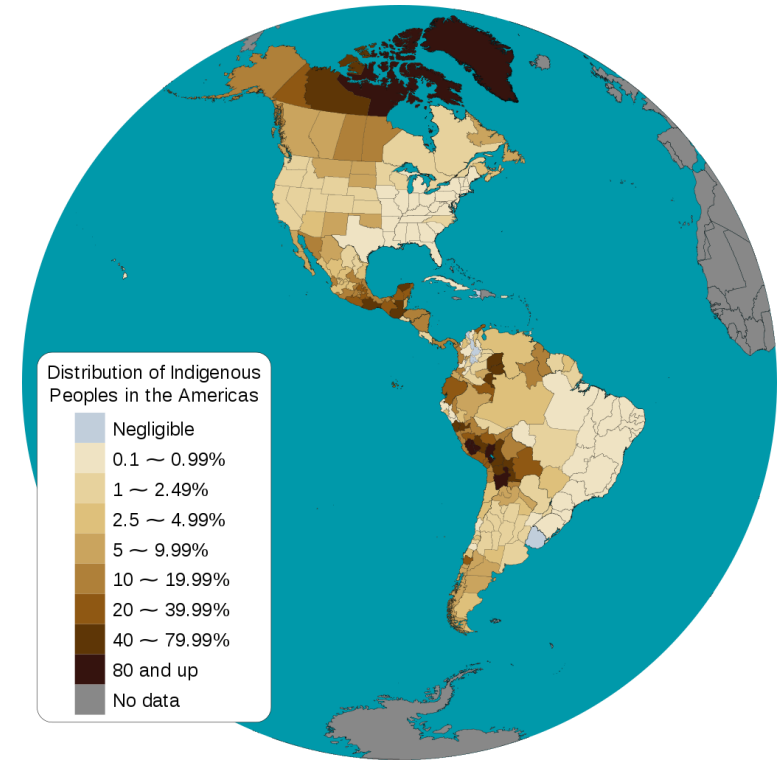
The middle class from the cities starts to discover the mountains in their vacation. A growing number of Chileans and Argentines begin to hike, mainly in national parks. Many of this novice hikers still lack experience and appropriate gear. Where the GPT passes national parks you will meet such less experience and sometimes inadequately equipped hikers. Please don't look down on them but when asked share your experience and knowledge in a positive manner. The growing number of inexperienced hikers results in normally concerned park rangers especially when you plan to walk off the standard trail. You might need to show your GPS and your satellite pager to park rangers to convince them to let you follow the more remote routes of the GPT.



Picture 41: GPT09: Being the guest of a Pehuenche family in Trapa Trapa. Image: Meylin Ubilla

Owning large plots of land is a status symbol of the rich and super-rich. And this is where the right-of-way trouble often culminates. The rich *patron* (owner or landlord) of these *fundos* or *haciendas* (large privately-owned plots of land) are rarely there themselves but hire a *cuidador* (caretaker) to maintain their property. Sometimes the *patrón* instructs the *cuidador* to not let anyone pass. How to deal with such a situation I will explain later.

The potent overseas immigration into Chile and Argentina and the continuous land grab made the native first nations to a minority in their own homeland. In the area that the GPT traverses only one of the numerous pre-colonial indigenous cultures holds still visible significance: the *Pehuenche* that are considered part of the *Mapuche* group. Most other native cultures are lost and extinct. Starting from section GPT09 to about GPT15 you will meet the *Pehuenche*. But don't expect intact indigenous communities that celebrate their traditional way of live with unity and pride. Centuries of disrespect, economic and social pressure, the forceful formation of a new Chilean identity after the independence from Spain and missionary efforts of various Christian sects have caused deep divides in their communities and resulted in a fractured identity. You may read the Wikipedia articles to the demographics of [Chile](#) 🌐 and [Argentina](#) 🌐 to learn more about the native tribes and ethnic groups that settle this land for thousands of years and the 500 years of post-Columbian immigration into these countries.



Picture 42: Percentage of indigenous people in the Americas. Image: Wikipedia

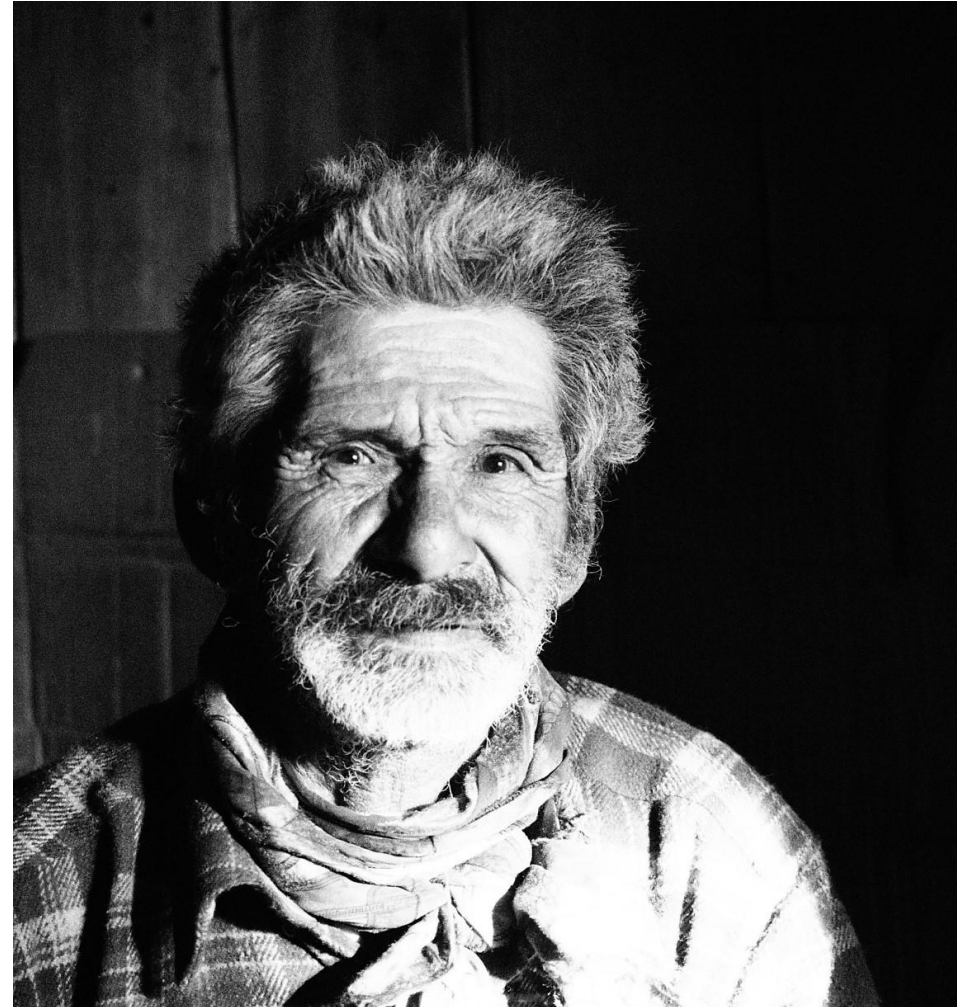
In the following I share some of our experiences and lessons learned with the three groups of people that we frequently meet along the trail and a fourth group that you rarely meet but that affects your hike:

1. *Arrieros* and *Gauchos* or the cowboys of Chile and Argentina
2. The indigenous population in particular the *Pehuenche*
3. Settlers and homestead farmers that colonized Patagonia
4. The rich and superrich large estate land holders

I categorize between these groups despite recognizing that you sometimes cannot clearly distinct between the first three. An indigenous *Pehuenche* may work and act like an *arriero* and many settlers have indigenous roots.

1.8.3 Arrieros and Gauchos

From section GPT01 to section GPT09 you will frequently meet men on horses that in late spring drive livestock up in the mountains and watch over it till they drive the animals back down in autumn. These men (but never woman!) get normally employed by the landowner that holds a large plot of land in the mountains. The animals that they watch over are normally owned by several farmers that pay for the service to fatten



Picture 43: GPT36H: Don Herald Rial. Image: Paul Bostelmann

their animals during the mountain grazing period. These caretakers call themselves *arriero* or *puestero* and live during the summer in an improvised shelter or shack that are called *puesto*. From this base they make regular tours on horseback to the cattle, goats and horses that remain under their responsibility. The Argentine term for this profession and lifestyle is *Gaucha* that is also occasionally used in southern Chile. These rough men are normally happy to get a visit. If you speak Spanish and engage in a conversation you will often be offered a seat next to the fire and it will not take long till you are offered to drink some Mate with them. If you are lucky they have some fresh bread or *tortas* (the short form of *tortas fritas* which is bread baked in hot fat).

When we pass a *puesto* we share at least some words; we explain what we are doing, we often ask for the trail condition and exchange some friendly gossip i.e. whom we meet before and ask whom we will meet further down our way. Knowing the names of this people is always a benefit and very useful when asking for permission to pass. If it is late and time to camp we try to sense if we are welcome to stay a night what is normally the case. If yes, then we pitch our tent in the vicinity of the *puesto*.

Nobody knows the area around the *puesto* better than they do. They do not move only along the trails but to any place where their animals are grazing. But their expertise often reaches only to certain point. They might go for 20 years to the same *puesto* and know every tree and boulder on the entrusted land but they might not know what is behind a certain pass in the next valley. So asking them for directions can very revealing and exceptional helpful but it requires purposeful questions and a wise interpretation of the answers. Don't ask for the walking time and distance in kilometres or miles, but always ask how long it takes them on horse. Then double the value to estimate your walking time.

Only if the person is drunk than better move on quickly. Filled with alcohols these normally friendly men can become annoying and even harassing with women.

1.8.4 Indigenous Population

The tribal land of the *Pehuenche* starts where the first *Araucaria* trees grow what is two thirds into section GPT09 and ends somewhere around section GPT19. The *Pehuenche* (*Pewenche*: people of *pewen* in Mapudungun) are an indigenous people who are part of the Mapuche peoples. They live in the Andes in south central Chile and Argentina. Their name derives from their habit of harvesting and eating *piñones*, the seeds of the *Araucaria* tree that is called in Mapudungun *pewen*. In the 14th century, the *Pehuenche* lived in the mountainous territory between the Maule River and the volcano Lonquimay. Later they became “*Araucanized*” and partially merged with the *Mapuche* tribes. The difficult living conditions higher up in the mountains on less fertile land protected the *Pehuenche* to some degree during the main wave of European immigration in the 19th and 20th century. For a long time their land was simply not attractive enough to be taken away.

The *Pehuenche* took over agricultural techniques from the European invaders i.e. the breeding livestock and the farming of cereals and other crops. Therefore, you will meet along the trail *Pehuenche* in *puestos* that herd cattle, goats and horses like the *arrieros* further north. But in contrast to the *arrieros* you will meet women and entire families, sometimes three generations living together in small shelters. This is a nice change! Some milk their cows and make cheese. In summer and autumn, they harvest the seeds of the *Araucaria* pines called *piñones*.

But be aware that two centuries of disrespect and oppression made them distrustful and distant. We were occasionally asked if we are researching geologists fearing that we are looking for minerals and taking their land away if we find something precious. But explaining carefully that we are just walking guests that come to admire the land that they own broke often the ice.



Picture 44: Mapuche flag.

With these people we had some of the most moving encounters along the entire trail. We spoke about their history, their way of life, their connection with the land and what they desire for their next generation. They bear an identity that torn between tradition and living a modern life. Also, Christian sects have caused deep divisions within their communities and families. These tensions make them guarded to speak about their identity and convictions. So we listen carefully and act cautious to not make them feel uncomfortable. Once we stepped by accident into their annual religious gathering called *Guillatún*. We were approached by their leaders who kindly asked us to move on and so we did.

Maintaining this balance between interest and quite respect resulted in wonderful times with these people, i.e. staying a night or even an entire day with them. They taught us how to down and open pines from the *Araucaria* trees and how to prepare *piñones* for eating. We several times purchased a goat from them to roast it on an open fire and eat it together.

The Mapuche that include the Pehuenche people are the only indigenous nation that you now meet in numbers along the GPT. Many other tribes that settled in the Southern Cone were decimated by imported diseases and murdered during the violent occupation of Patagonia. The remaining native survivors got assimilated and few traces are left of these cultures. A terrible example is the [Selk'nam genocide](#) 🌐 at the turn from the 19th to the 20th century. The newly arrived landlords from Europe paid the gauchos to hunt and kill the indigenous people on Tierra del Fuego like game. The murderers were rewarded a bounty for



Picture 45: Yaganes people.

each killed native what had to be proved by presenting a pair of hands or ears or a skull.

The now extinct **Chonos** 🌐, **Kawesqar** 🌐 and **Yaganes** 🌐 people were the incredibly resistant sea nomads that roomed the Patagonian fjords and channels; the ancient packrafters so to say. Moving in open canoes made of wood and sea lion skins these hunter-gatherers lived off what the sea provided: fish, seafood, sea birds, sea lions but also death whales that were washed ashore. Large deposits of sea shells at their now deserted camp sites are one of the few silent reminders. Knowing this should humble every packrafter that ventures into the Patagonian fjords with state-of-the-art packrafts, dry suites, dehydrated food rations and satellite navigation and communication.



Picture 46: Native population in Chile. Image: Wikipedia

1.8.5 Settlers and Homestead Farmers

With the term settler I refer to the people that call themselves *colonos* or *pobladores* and who's ancestors moved into Patagonia at the end of the 19th century and during the 20th century. The term *colonos* is typically used for the first generation of settlers while the term *pobladores* refers to all decedents. “*Hacer patria*”, or in English “making homeland” was and is the motive that drove these people into this challenging land and makes them stay despite the continued hardship. When walking on the GPT you will regularly meet the second, third and fourth generation of these settlers all the way from section GPT15 to GPT38.



Picture 47: GPT22: Homestead farmer at the Río Puelo. Image: Jan Dudeck

In the second half of the 19th century, around 50 years after gaining independence from Spain, the Chilean and Argentine government breached the agreements with the native population and forcefully took control of Patagonia that the Spanish colonizers did not conquer during the three centuries of their rule before. It was simply the political mindset of this time that each nation takes the land that they have the power to grab. And racism dominated the thinking so the ruling class of decedents from Europeans were looking for people of their kind to replace the indigenous population to “cultivate” the land.

Cheep and even free land was promised to troubled and impoverished Europeans. But also Chilean and Argentine citizens were seeking their luck by moving out of the established settling areas into the seemingly virgin land of Patagonia. Laws were created to promote settling this vast region. Whoever “cultivates” a piece of land could apply for land ownership titles after a couple of years. But the sustainable way of life of the indigenous population, that utilizes smaller plots of land at a time did not qualify to be regarded as the righteous owners.

The harsh climate and the remote location of Patagonia means that “cultivating” is generally understood as growing livestock for sale and having some homestead farming to produce food for auto-consumption. Grazing land was often created with fire. Prospective settler made expeditions in search for promising patches of land, they incinerated the forest and quickly left hoping that the fire takes down a good part of the forest. In the following years they came back, seeded grass and burned down more forest. Once sufficient patches of grazing land had formed they moved in with cattle, sheep and horses and build basic houses to create their personal piece of homeland.

From today’s perspective this is a brute violation of the native nations and their homeland. But I’m not writing this to question or to justify the legitimacy of the settlers to life on this land. History can’t be turned back, and this past injustice can neither be undone without new injustice nor can it be plausibly justified. I’m writing this to create a more factual understanding of the actual sequence of events that is less blurred by the romantic imagination of homestead farming. I want to outline the ambivalent history that



Picture 48: GPT26: The remaining skeletons of the incinerated forest decades after the fire. Image: Jan Dudeck

permits you now to personally discover this land on trails that these settlers created and that are now part of the GPT. I hope to open the eyes of prospective hikers for this courageous people to not walk by with ignorance.

If you consider yourself a tough and enduring hiker then imagine the hardship and persistence of these settlers in comparison. They moved in without being guided by maps and GPS and without your functional ultra-light gear. There were no trails, there were no shops on the route to occasionally resupply and their stay was not limited to the few more months with more suitable weather. They had to make a living by producing more than they consumed to have something to sell off with a profit. Therefore, if you meet these settlers don't seek admiration for what you are doing because it's just hilarious. What we hikers do nowadays is just "a stroll in the woods" compared to the challenges that these settlers faced. Therefore, be a humble guest that admires the endurance of these settlers without expecting to be treated like a celebrity for your little adventure.

Many of these settlers are proud of their heritage and enjoy sharing their history. That's an opportunity that we rarely miss. We enjoy listening to them before we speak about our own little adventure and our trail publishing project. If you are also open for this opportunity than hiking on the GPT will become a uniquely and authentic experience that shows you much more than just a trail.

Hospitality and a fair cooperation between settlers is part of the culture and it's your responsibility to maintain this attitude by not abusing it. Keep in mind that they face the continued challenge to make a living and if you receive something, like food or accommodation then don't take it for granted but pay what is reasonable even if you are not asked for money. These settlers are no trail angels that live along the route for your comfort; you are the unexpected guest that hugely benefits from their trail building efforts.

It's a culture in decline. Few of their children continue this way of live and you will often meet people above 60 years of age. For

the younger generation moving into a town seems more promising than the burden of making a living on the *campo* (cultivated land). Therefore, pay respect to each settler because their continued endurance keeps the trails open for you. If you have the opportunity to outline how a sustainable form of tourism can supplement their culture and way of life then show this perspective especially to the few younger settlers that you can still meet occasionally along the trail. The future of the Greater Patagonian Trail is linked with the future of these settlers.

If the children of these settlers move out than sooner or later the land will be sold to the biter with the highest bidder. And the interest in this land is constantly growing, regardless how remote it is; rich Chileans and foreigners will buy it. And this gets us to the forth category of “hosts”.

1.8.6 Large Estate Land Holders

To be issued.

1.8.7 Women Hiker's on the GPT

As a male hiker I do not consider myself completely incompetent to write to this subject, but it is much more appropriate that female hikers share their experience and advise to this topic. Therefore, I invited several women that hiked the GPT “man-less” to speak directly to future hikers.

1.8.7.1 Bethany Hughes and Lauren Reed

In general, safety when traveling abroad is the same for everyone. As two women traveling through Patagonia we did feel the effects of the *machista* thinking but this largely amounted to more of a nuisance than a danger. Still, we made a conscious decision to err on the side of caution when dealing with questionable situations, whether they be high rivers or strange men. These were a few of the precautions we believe contributed to our positive experience along the Greater Patagonian Trail:

- **Work within cultural norms:** If travelling as a woman alone you are already challenging most Patagonians perception of women (tourism industry excluded). Be prepared to be stared at and questioned about your relationship status. Even if there are multiple of you, if you do not have a man with you, you will be regarded *viajando solas* (travelling alone).



Picture 49: GPT26: Bethany Hughes and Lauren Reed who hiked the length of the GPT “man-less”.

- **Dress modestly:** In the campo, you do not often see skin for practical reasons of the conditions and work. I abandoned a cute summer dress I brought to wear while doing laundry in town because of the amount of staring and *piropos* (things men shout or grunt at you). Even in leggings, we got a lot of long looks. Short shorts may be viewed as inappropriate or provocative, particularly as those who reside in the campo are often elders. So, if the Calafate thorns don't deter you from wearing booty shorts, maybe the disapproving eyes of a grandmother or lustful staring of a farm hand will.
- **Be married:** When we didn't feel up to playing the "20 questions about your relationship status" game, we found it easier just to answer that yes, we were happily married. Lauren went so far as to move a ring she wore to her wedding finger to back her story.
- **Avoid potentially misinterpreted situations:** A woman who is not married is, to most Patagonian minds, is just not married YET. You will be approached, questioned, hit on, and offered marriage. I am not here to defend nor defame that, these are simply the methods we engaged to avoid situations where our presence as single women could be misinterpreted or taken advantage of:
- **We did not go out after dark.** This was easy in the pueblos, where everything shuts down anyway. In the cities there tended to be more activity in the late evenings, we generally tried to have everything we needed done before or immediately after siesta. Particularly tasks like withdrawing cash or finding alcohol for our stoves.
- **We did not drink.** Except in tourist establishments adjoining a place we were staying or when bringing wine to a dinner event. Essentially, we avoided being seen on the streets with alcohol.

- **We avoid city wide parties** (*fiestas*). Perhaps we missed out on interesting cultural events but the prevalence of drunkenness and the tendency of these events to run into the night squarely put these events off our gamut of activities. Also, very little tends to be open during these sometimes 4-day-long events so resupplying was difficult and, in our estimation, the general mayhem was better off avoided. If going to such a *fiesta costumbrista*, go there right when it starts but leave early.
- **Precautions:** We took the time to establish a “safe word” between the two of us. If either felt unsafe in a situation, using this word meant we left together, immediately. We also each carried pepper spray which was confiscated at one border crossing and later returned by the guard.

Only once during our walk across Patagonia was I overtly grabbed and held against my will by a man. That was the only time I felt unsafe and when I spoke to some new friends in the village, the men quickly stepped away and addressed the situation. By and large the people of Patagonia are extremely kind and interested in protecting you, often citing their own daughters as the reason.

Bonus note: Tampons are expensive and can be hard to find in Patagonia (in the small towns your best chance is to find them over the counter at pharmacies) so I recommend having your birth control regimen planned and/or bring something like a [Diva Cup](#) 🌐 to avoid the hassle.

1.8.7.2 Kathrin Merz

Honestly, I didn't have any problems, scary situations whatsoever. Generally, I felt like men treated me with respect. The worst that happened were guys just staring at me or ignoring me completely but even that was rarely the case. Most were very friendly and helpful even invited me to have lunch with them or offered to carry my backpack on their horses.

Of course, I got asked all the time if I'm not scared and my reply always was: "Why should I be scared?". ALWAYS the answer was "Because of the puma and bad people!". So I told them that it wouldn't make sense for a puma to attack me as there were enough goats and sheeps around which where a lot easier prey. Everyone agreed. For the bad people I told them that I only met nice people so far and that I think generally that the *campo* is very safe and you are a lot more likely to encounter problems with people in big cities. Again, everyone agreed. So no reason to be scared!

Generally, I felt really safe and much more like people wanted to protect me than to harm me. The only thing I did for my safety (and I would do that in other countries and places as well) was avoiding *puestos* or small settlements in the afternoon and evening to avoid possible encounters with drunk people as I feel, these are the only people that might be dangerous (again, all over the world). At the beginning of my journey I had such an encounter with a drunk guy; nothing happened he was just drunk and didn't do anything bad at all but I felt really uncomfortable and decided to just avoid similar situations if possible.

I would totally recommend the GPT to other solo female hikers. Go for it!

1.8.8 Security, Police and Borders

In the bigger cities, especially in bus stations, you need to be cautious with petty crime. But once you get out of the cities into the rural areas people live a tranquil life and sometimes don't even lock the doors of their houses. I do not recall any scary situation with people along the GPT and only very few instances in which distrust was advisable. But when you meet trunk people be cautious and keep distance. With alcohol these sometimes shy people can get annoying and even harassing in particular with women. In such a situation the best response is to move on.

When hiking the GPT you will be most of the time in close proximity to the border that delimits Chile from Argentina. It's a seemingly open border with a *hito* (boundary mark) every few kilometers. Official border crossings can be 200 km apart. But don't mistake this as an invitation to cross the border where you wish! Both countries are very touchy with their borders and both countries run random police patrols on horse to monitor their boundaries. In particular the *Carabineros* (Chilean police) has many permanent police posts in the vicinity of the border and establishes additional temporary police outposts during summer to monitor movements and prevent contraband in the borderland. On the other side of the border In Argentina the *Gendarmería* (Argentine police) has less posts but also run occasional patrols. We had to show our passports numerous times in the middle of nowhere just to confirm that we entered the country legally on one of the few *pasos habilitados* (official border crossing location).



Picture 50: GPT07: Chatting with the officers at the forward police check point Carrisales. Image: Jan Dudeck

If they find you “on the wrong” side of the border because you have crossed the border illegally expect to be fined, deported and punished with an entry ban for an extended period. That’s the certain end of your hike on the GPT. Especially Chile is very strict and unforgiving. Also, if you are not checked after an illegal border crossing you are not out of trouble. You can be certain that without a valid tourist permit you will not have a trouble-free departure for your flight home. Therefore, enter both countries only through the official doors, respect the house rules and never climb in through a window even if the window is wide open with the window ledge conveniently low.

Don’t be a fool that carries drugs when hiking the GPT. As stated before there are numerous permanent and temporary police posts in the vicinity of the border to prevent smuggle. One of the concerns is drug trafficking. Because hikers are still a rare occurrence police may wonder why someone roams the border area and what might be hidden in the backpack. Some hikers got searched in detail for drugs. If they find something illegal in your backpack, even small amounts, you can be certain to feel the tight grip of the strict drug trafficking laws. The Chilean *Carabineros* are



Picture 51: GPT07: Piia and Oliver at a forward police post after the first phase with much officialdom is over. Image: Piia Kortsalo and Oliver Barker

famous for not taking bribes therefore you cannot buy your way out. So don't be a fool and don't carry drugs, not even small amounts.

Note, that drinking alcohol in public is a legal offense in Chile. Especially in towns this may be enforced by police. So don't take a seat on the town's *plaza* with a couple of beers. In theory police can detain you for drinking in public but rarely do this with tourists. If you want to chill out with a couple drinks better do this in your hostel or on any private (camp) ground.

But don't be scared of the police after having read all this. The Chilean *Carabineros* and Argentine *Gendarmería* are correct, friendly and helpful if you respect the "house rules". When we pass a forward police post we never sneak around but always present ourselves and explain our plans. We often get helpful information and sometimes invited by the police to stay a night if it was too late to move on.

I highly recommend reading [Piia's and Oliver's experiences with the police along the trail](#) 🌐. I could not have described it better. Have also a look what [Bethany and Lauren write about their encounters with the Carabineros in Chile](#) 🌐.



Picture 52: GPT07: Being invited for lunch and a glas of wine at the forward police check point El Dial. Image: Jan Dudeck

1.8.9 Tourist Visas

Most citizens from Europe and North America do not need a visa to visit Chile or Argentina as tourists. These citizens must present a valid passport at the border control to receive a 90-day tourist permit. Selected nationalities must pay a reciprocity fee when coming to Chile or Argentina¹⁵. Citizen from numerous Asian and African countries must apply for a visa in advance. Check the immigration rules before travelling to avoid unpleasant surprises.

The Chilean and the Argentine border controls are often several hours walking distance apart and placed a good distance before the actual border. Joint border check points exist only on a few heavily travelled passes. When arriving on the airport or when crossing the border by bus or car you can not miss the passport control but don't assume the same when hiking. There a few *pasos habilitados* in remote areas where you can easily sneak past the border control but this gets you in trouble later. Therefore, knock on the door if nobody is around and make sure to collect your exit stamp before hiking on over the border. At the receiving border control your passport will be checked to verify that you got your exit stamp. Without this exit stamp you will be denied entry and send back. After you got your entry stamp¹⁶ you are free to travel the country for up to 90 days.



Picture 53: Argentine and Chilean entry and exit stamps.
Image: Jan Dudeck

¹⁵ Australian, Canadian and US citizens were affected but rules and regulations change frequently. Argentina requires this fee to be paid in advance online.

¹⁶ In Chile you get in addition a small leaflet that need show occasionally and that gets collected by the police when leaving the country. So keep this paper safe.

The Main Route from section GPT01 to GPT22 is nearly completely on Chilean soil and to long to be conveniently hiked within 3 months. Therefore, a hike with connecting footsteps that starts on section GPT01 normally requires a renewal or extension of the 90-day tourist permit. The easiest way to renew a tourist permit is travelling from Chile to Argentina before completing your 90 days and returning a few days later. On re-entry you will normally be granted another 90-day tourist permit even if you remained only one or two days on the other side of the border¹⁷. Between section GPT13 and GPT20 are various passes with regular public transportation or the next town over the border in a one-day walking distance. You may combine a “visa-trip” with a resupply stop in a town on the other side of the border¹⁸.

If you start a hike with connecting further south i.e. between section GPT13 and section GPT17¹⁹ (and not on section GPT01) than you will cross the border from Chile to Argentina after around 4 to 8 weeks on section GPT22. When returning to Chile to hike the northern sections then you more likely manage the remaining sections within 90 days.

Alternatively, you can request a 90-day-extension of your tourist permit in Chile. This can be done in any of the 54 provincial capitals of Chile. Talca, Chillan, Los Angeles, Temuco, Puerto Montt and Coyhaique are possible choices but only Coyhaique is conveniently close to the trail. On Wikipedia you find a [full list of the Chilean provinces with their provincial capitals](#) 🌐.

The Main Route crosses on sections GPT22, GPT26 and GPT38 the border between Chile and Argentina. This automatically resets your tourist permit what is normally sufficient to hike and paddle the southern half of the GPT with connecting footsteps.

¹⁷ This is a distinct difference to Europe where a visa-free access to the Schengen states permits only 90 days within any 180-day period.

¹⁸ When doing a resupply trip over the border consider that import restrictions for fresh food.

¹⁹ Starting on section GPT17H or GPT17P benefits also an earlier departure because various sections in the north open up later due to high river levels during the spring snowmelt.

1.8.10 Accommodations

You normally find a wide range of accommodations in the towns and villages of Chile and Argentina. Most hostels and hotels are privately run small businesses. Some residents recognize the growing flux of tourists as a business opportunity and convert unused rooms into accommodations or attached new constructions to their home to accommodate paying guests. Therefore, you often stay in the same house with your hosts. When looking for an accommodation check for signs that advertise *residencial*, *hostal*, *hospedaje*, *alojamiento*, *cabaña* or hotel. The precise difference between these categories is blurry therefore best compare if you see various options. It is not rude if you ask to see the room and move on to compare various accommodations before making your choice.

Some rooms have a *baño privado* (private bathroom) others a *baño compartido* (shared bathroom). Sometimes you can use the kitchen or a common guest area with cooking facilities. Breakfast might be included in the room rate or not. You need to ask for all these details when asking for the price. If breakfast is included, then don't expect an all-you-can-eat buffet that satisfies your trail appetite. You will get a counted number of buns, marmalade, maybe cheese and ham and coffee or tea. Internet is often available but might be slow if the area is not well connected.



Picture 54: GPT22: Being an unexpected paying guest of homestead farmers in the remote backcountry of Cochamó. Image: Jan Dudeck

A particular nice option to rest and resupply are *cabañas*. These are small houses with a kitchen or cooking area and separate sleeping rooms. Here you can spread out, clean yourself and your gear, cook and relax and get ready for the next sections. Such *cabañas* are normally a bit more expensive than a just a room but the price difference is not necessarily excessive.

Camping in towns and villages is often possible and typically slightly cheaper than basic rooms. In particular in Argentina most towns and villages have municipal and privately-run camp grounds in proximity to the center. An *asador* or *parrilla* (fire place to grill meat) is normally available especially in meat-loving Argentina. It's not uncommon that entire families visit these places during daytime for an extended feast and return home in the evening.

Finding a bed in a particular remote area is more tricky but often possible if you enjoy the interchange with local residents and cultural immersion. For many homestead settlers the main income is growing and selling livestock and generating some extra cash by hosting tourists is rather new. If we pass such a homestead farm in the evening hours and prefer a bed over our tent, then we often ask who in the area offers accommodation or where to pitch our tent for one night. This gives the settler various opportunities to reply without feeling pressured in a certain way. He can either state that he does know (happens rarely), he can offer you to camp on his farm (a quite common answer) or he can offer sharing his home (also a frequent response). We stayed a couple of times in the deserted children's room that became unoccupied when the kids moved out. For us this has proved the best way to learn more about the land the people. We often spend long evenings cooking together and learning how they moved into this area decades ago and how they make their living. Such encounters need a respectful and sensitive attitude to make it a positive experience for all. And please, don't assume that these settlers are "trail angles" making "trail magic" for you. Pay what is reasonable even if not asked for money. Insist to give what is appropriate to maintain this culture.

1.8.11 Public Transportation

Chile and Argentina have an efficient public transportation system that reaches to the last village even in remote areas. The reason is simple: many citizens either don't have a car or cannot afford to use their cars for each and every activity. This creates a market that is served by a wide range of private companies. A few big enterprises maintain high-quality long-distance bus networks that connect all cities and mayor towns. A larger number of mid-size companies serve specific regions. And many smaller companies maintain regular mini-bus connections in rural areas. In the Patagonian fjords ferries are an important component of the public transportation system. And as stated before the government also subsidizes public transport into particular remote places that would otherwise not be served by profit-oriented companies.

These buses are the best way to travel in Chile and Argentina. For longer distances I recommend night buses. If you can effort some luxury take a "Premium" service on a night bus to have a seat that can be converted into a long flat bed. Only when travelling between Santiago de Chile, Coyhaique and Punta Arenas a domestic flight is



Picture 55: GPT01 to GPT40 and public transportation recommendations for Chile and Argentina

normally a better choice that is often not more expensive than bus if the ticket is purchased long in advance. In Argentina a flight between Bariloche and El Calafate might be an option.

All these buses and boats operate with reliable schedules and significant delays are rare. All major bus companies have an internet presents and you can plan and purchase your trip online. Many of the mid-size companies publish at least their routes and schedules on the internet. With the smaller buses in the more rural areas (*buses rurales*) the story is a bit different. Schedules are rarely published in the internet and if published they might be outdated. The best way to find out or to double check is asking shop keepers or local residents on the route.



Picture 56: Travelling with a minibus in Chile. Image: Jan Dudeck

Getting your ticket for long-distance bus rides (*buses interurbanos*) a day or some hours in advance is advisable especially during peak season. But if you do not have the opportunity to do this just ask for the next available bus in the bus station. Check and compare in the bus stations the different companies as often several companies serve the same routes. If you already have a ticket be at the *anden* (bus gate) at least 15 minutes before departure; most buses are very punctual and do not wait even a minute for late passengers.

Bigger luggage is stored in the bus luggage compartment and you normally get a small paper slip for each item that gets loaded.

Keep this paper as you need it to get your luggage back on arrival. This system is very reliable, and I never experienced or heard of lost or stolen luggage on such bus trips. For better protection we pack sensible items in the center of backpack and we put the backpack in a big garbage bag or a *matutera* (cheap and simple bag with a zipper) that we give away after the bus ride.

Long-distance buses stop normally only in bus stations, but the regional and rural buses stop on request anywhere along the route. To take a bus on a regional or rural road don't look for a bus stop sign; just wait anywhere along the road where you can see the bus early and where the bus driver can see you and stop safely. When you see a bus approaching waive to signal your desire to take this bus. Have your hand luggage ready and separated as bigger backpacks get normally loaded in the luggage compartment.

Depending on the demand the bus frequency can vary considerably. Really remote places might only be served by two or three buses per week while routes with high demand can have a bus every few minutes and don't operate by schedule but when sufficient paying passengers boarded the bus.

Prices for all these buses are set by the bus company and not subject to bargaining. Pay what you are asked for and don't be afraid that a foreigner gets charged a different fare. We never experienced a rip-off when travelling by bus in Chile and Argentina.

Despite the good public transportation system hikers will rely for a few lake and river crossings on private boat transfers. In order to traverse sections GPT21 and GPT22 without a packraft you need to approach settlers along the trail and ask for their service. Maintaining a boat and getting gasoline in these remote areas is complicated and costly therefore this service is not a bargain. Ask for the price in advance.

Hitchhiking can be a suitable alternative to waiting for buses. As more remote the area as less vehicles will pass but in such areas drivers are more likely to stop and carry hitchhikers. Several hikers found hitchhiking along the GPT fairly easy if compared to other countries. [Piia and Oliver](#) 🌐 had a special trick; they used a sign “*Tenemos chocolate*” (“We have chocolate”). We also took in a few instances a taxi or a *flete* (cargo taxi; typically, a pickup truck) to get to the trail head or bridge a less attractive road section with motorized transportation instead of walking on gravel roads.

To cross Lago General Carrera (GPT34H) and Lago O’Higgins (GPT37H) you rely on ferries. The same applies after packrafting down the Río Palena (GPT28P) and may come handy when travelling the Packrafting Specials (GPT75P to GPT77P). Check the schedule long before you arrive and try to get your ticket in advance. During the main travel season the demand occasionally exceeds the available seats and travellers without a ticket may need to wait several days.



Picture 57: GPT76: Arriving in Chaiten by Ferry from Puerto Montt. Image: Jan Dudeck

1.8.12 Postal System

The product range in smaller villages and towns is limited. Replacement gear like quality hiking shoes are difficult to source along the trail and bringing such items from overseas or purchasing it in advance in Santiago is advisable. Also special dehydrated trekking food may not be available in smaller towns. If you prefer to prepare your own resupply-bounce-box with replacement gear and special food, then you may use the postal or *encomienda* system to ship a package in between resupply towns. There are various delivery companies in Chile. *Correos de Chile* is the state-run mail system but private shipment companies like *Starken* and *ChileExpress* offer similar but more rapid services. Before planning with a bounce-box check the maximum storage time of the logistics provider. *Starken* reduced some time ago the guaranteed holding period from 30 days to 15 days what makes this service less practical for endurance-hikers that prefer to combine multiple sections into a long unbroken hike.

We used a resupply-bounce-box during our first two investigation hikes in the area between Santiago and Puerto Montt (GPT01 and GPT21) where these delivery companies have many offices. But south of Puerto Montt (GPT22 to GT40) we felt a bounce-box this might complicate logistics because the number of pick-up points is quite limited. No using a bounce-box preserves the freedom to change and adopt the section sequence.

If you are interested in this option then you should read Piia's and Oliver's valuable advises based on their [resupply strategy and their experience with the Chilean *encomienda* system](#) 🌐 during their 1500 km hike. They provide an excellent description to which I have nothing to add.

1.8.13 Resupply Infrastructure

The resupply infrastructure is comparable to the public transportation system. You have big chain supermarkets in the larger towns; you have mid-size shops in smaller towns and mini-shops or kiosks in villages and small settlements.

The big chain supermarkets have all the features and standards of the big supermarkets in the western world. When stepping into such a supermarket you see little that is distinctively Chilean or Argentine; it's the modern bright and shiny shopping culture. Our favorite supermarket chain in Chile is "*Jumbo*" who offers a wide range of dehydrated food and a good selection of imported products from the US and Europe to vary the diet on the trail. On second and third place after our favorite super market chains rank "*Lider*" and "*Totus*". In Argentina "*La Anónima*" offers a generally good selection of dehydrated food. If you are fancy on good cooking in the wild then take your time and stroll through the aisles of these big supermarkets and try something new. For imported products expect to pay twice as much as in the country of origin. Therefore, shopping at these big supermarkets is generally more expensive and requires substantially more time as these large supermarkets are located only in the bigger towns that are often far off the GPT and require a longer resupply trip.

In smaller towns your choices will be more limited but sufficient to resupply if you do not have to specific food desires. You have often several shops and it might be worth checking more than one market to compare the range of products available. Shopping



Picture 58: Our favourite resupply supermarket chain in Chile: Jumbo. Image: Wikipedia

here might need more imagination to assemble your meals. I.e. you will probably not find dehydrated pasta sauces as in the big supermarkets but plain tomato soup powder can do it as well if adding some spices.

In the more remote areas you occasionally find mini-shops or kiosks. You can sometimes recognize these shops on small colorful flags that may advertise specific food brands. These mini-shops are rarely the main source of income for the shop keeper but generate just some extra income, so don't expect too much. Here you have quite limited choice but such places are good to stretch your supplies to extend your hiking range or to enjoy the unexpected luxury of a sweat soft drink, canned fruit or sometimes even ice cream. You can typically buy pasta, rice, oil, milk powder, *harina tostada* ([more to this later](#)), a variety of sweet drinking powders, cookies and corn flakes or similar over-sugared cereals. If you desire a cold beer you typically have to ask specifically for it as these mini-shops and kiosks rarely have a license to sell alcohol but they often do it under the counter on request. These mini-shops and kiosks are normally closed but you will often find a bell or you simply knock on the door or you asked in the adjacent buildings for the shop keeper. Do not be shy in these circumstances and be prepared to wait patiently. If someone is around they will open the shop just for your, but if nobody is at home you will need to move on and try your luck somewhere else.



Picture 59: GPT06: Kiosk. Image: Jan Dudeck

The *puesteros* and homestead farmers along the trail may also sell some food. Since the number of hikers is still quite low many are not aware what products and services they may offer to earn some extra money. Therefore we often ask. If we see i.e. some tempting fruits and vegetables in the garden we ask if they sell us some. If we see chicken running around than this means that eggs might in supply. If we are really lucky and they recently slaughtered an animal than we might even buy some meet. If you don't want to rely on your luck to eat big portions of meat then you may ask if they sell an entire goat or lamb ([more to this later](#)). Don't worry, you don't need to butchered it yourself; they can do it for you. Flour to bake bread is something that most people along the trail have abundantly. Buying a kilogram or two is often possible. To not pressure a person in selling, we often ask indirectly, we ask i.e. who in the area can sell us flour or bread. This gives the asked person the possibility to say: "I do!" or to refer to someone else or to say that he does not know. Feel free to ask in this way, what really matters is that you pay what is appropriate.

What we do when we prepare for a particular long combination of sections is carrying i.e. extra rations of powdered sources for pasta and rice, plenty of spices and other light weight special stuff and purchase along the way extra packs of pasta and rice in mini-shops and kiosks or bread and meat from *puesteros* and



Picture 60: GPT22: Fresh lettuce from a homestead farmer after a week on the trail. Image: Jan Dudeck

homestead farmers. Such a flexible resupply strategy can extend the hiking range considerable and makes it less relevant to precisely plan your daily rations. If you can't obtain what you need you may leave the trail on a section end to resupply before you run out of food. But if you get sufficient extra food along the trail you just add one or more sections without spending valuable time in transit between the trail and a resupply town. This permits us to remain two to three weeks on the trail and hiking such a longer unbroken timespan creates the immersive experience that we love so much.



Picture 61: GPT21: Minimarket El Poncho.
Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 62: GPT21: El Poncho: Small but sufficient to restock. Image: Jan Dudeck

On sections GPT01 to GPT05 you can resupply reasonable well on the trail. The product range in the few mid-size shops is not overwhelming but sufficient to assemble food rations with some variability.

On the roughly 750 km that follow the situation is different. From the start of section GPT05 to the finish of section GPT12 you will find only 4 or 5 mini-shops that may help to stretch your food reserves, but the limited choice of products and the intermittent attendance of the shop keepers makes these mini-shops unreliable for a planned full restock. There are also no postal stations along this route that may receive and hold shipments. Therefore, the only practical way to resupply in this area is leaving the trail

by bus or by car, shop and rest in a town a good distance off the trail and return to the same point by bus or by car to continue hiking.

South of GPT13 hikers may resupply along the trail better but selections in the mostly small shops are quite limited so an occasional resupply trip to a bigger town will be convenient and add more variety into your trail meals.

When resupplying consider that the rhythm of Patagonia is neither rushed nor focused on efficiency. The siesta is observed in almost every town throughout the region. Smaller businesses close roughly between 1 and 4, though even those hours are subject to whim. Shops rarely have posted hours and even if they do, these are not strictly observed. You may note on some a small white buzzer which you must press to call attention. If you bustle in brusquely, expect for services to be rendered even more slowly.

1.8.14 Traditional Food and Drinks

Chivo and Cordero al Palo: *Puesteros* occasionally butcher a young goat (*chivo*) or young sheep (*cordero*) when they meet with other herdsman or when they receive a visit to share an abounded meat feast. Female animals are normally preserved to maintain the flock so mainly the young male animals get slaughtered (a rare example of male discrimination). The skinned and cleaned animal is typically cut into pieces and stack on a wooden pole (*palo*). The pole is then placed next to the fire and occasionally turned until the meat is ready to eat what at least takes 2 hours. It's crucial that the meat is well cooked to kill all potential parasites in the meet.

You need to be very lucky to arrive just in time for such a feast and get invited. So, if you are hungry and day-dream with big portions of meet ask the people along the route if they have some meat left or if they are willing to sell one animal and butcher and prepare it with you. Sharing such a meal with *arrieros*, *Pehuenche* people or settlers on the trail is an excellent opportunity to experience the local culture first-hand and learn from your hosts.



Picture 64: GPT07: Buying a goat.
Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 63: GPT07: Preparing a goat.
Image: Jan Dudeck

The smallest quantity for sale is typically half an animal (*medio canal*) but most prefer to sell only an entire animal. Once well-cooked, you can carry the left overs and consume it during the next two or three days. Especially for a small group the meat of one animal is an appropriate portion since you can subsidise on it for a few days.

Witnessing the slaughtering of an animal is an intense and authentic experience and hikers should be keep in mind that most of these trails exist for single reason: grow animals to produce meat.

Harina Tostada: *Harina Tostada* (in Chile) or *ñaco* (in Argentina) is toasted ground wheat and one of the staple foods of the *arrieros* and *Pehuenche*. It comes as a brownish powder, tastes a bit like corn flakes and needs to be mixed with a liquid to be eaten. The most common form is mixing it with cold water (the mix is called *ulpo*) but also wine (called *chupilca*), beer or juice can be used. Also, sugar is often added when mixed with water. Depending on the mixing ratio it forms as thick paste or a liquid and makes a perfect refreshing snack during the day. You may also cook a dinner with it. A traditional *Pehuenche* and *arriero* meal is *harina tosdada* cooked or fried with water, oil, salt and garlic.

Try it yourself and find out how you like it. You can buy it in all rural stores but also in the big super markets. It's the perfect trekking food because it's nourishing, takes little space in the backpack and does not perish. Read the [Wikipedia article](#) 🌐 for more information to this versatile food.



Picture 65: *Asado al Palo*. Image: Jan Dudeck

Sopaipillas: *Sopaipillas* (in Chile) or *Torta Fritas* (in Argentina) is fried bread. It is made of wheat flour, salt and yeast and cooked for about 10 to 15 minutes in hot oil of animal fat. The preparation takes less time compared to baking bread what makes it a staple food of the *arrieros* and *gauchos* in remote places. Instead of an oven it need just a pot with fat and a small fire.

Tortilla de Rescoldo: *Tortilla de Rescoldo* is a bread that was baked in the hot ash of an open fire place. Most puestos don't have a proper oven to bake bread but use the accumulated ash of the fireplace instead. The dough is made of wheat flour, salt and yeast and gently put in a pit in the hot ash and then covered with more hot ash. After about 10 to 15 min the bread is turned and covered with hot ash again to bake it evenly on both sides. To not burn the bread



Picture 66: Making Bread. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 67: Tortilla de Rescoldo. Image: Jan D.



Picture 68: Sopaipillas. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 69: Tortilla de Rescoldo. Image: Jan

the hot ash must be free of embers. It requires quite some experience to get the temperature and the timing right. Also, the fireplace must be in use for days or weeks to accumulate sufficient ash. A typical campfire will not work because the fire itself is too hot and the amount of ash insufficient.

Both, *Sopaipillas* and *Tortillas de Rescoldo* are not easily made by hikers on the trail but if you are lucky you may buy such breads from the locals along the trail. Especially if you camp next to a *puesto* or settler's home you may carefully ask but pay what is appropriate.

Mate: *Mate* is an energizing caffeine-rich hot drink but much more than this: *mate* is an integral part of Patagonian culture. Traveling Patagonia without being invited to share some *mate* would be like visiting Germany without drinking any beer. *Mate* is a basic element of social life in the rural areas of southern Chile and Argentina.

Preparation: You fill about half a cup (*mate*) with the tee-like *yerba*, pour hot but not boiling water over it and drink it with a special straw that also acts as the filter. This straw is called *bombilla*. After a few sips the water is consumed and you pour more water into the cup. This is repeated several times till the taste fades. You may add sugar to drink it sweet (*dulce*) or without if you prefer the bitter taste (*armago*).

The Social Ritual: If you are on your own you drink by yourself but when being with other people you share one *mate* in between all. Sharing *mate* is a social ritual in Patagonia and when walking the GPT and making acquaintanceship with the people on the trail you will soon be invited. Here are the basic rules when sharing *mate*:

- The person who prepared the mate also serves the mate, which means she or he puts the water and sugar (optional). And, you always give the cup back to that person.
- Normally you don't say anything when you receive the mate. So well educated people must suppress the instinctive "Gracias". When you say "Gracias", it means that you don't want to drink another cup so next time when it's your turn, you will not be given the mate again.
- There is always an order or sequence if you are drinking with more than 2 people. You need to maintain this system.
- When handing the mate to another person the *bombilla* should face this person. Never rotate nor move the *bombilla*, as this clogs the *bombilla*. Normally, you do not even touch it with your hands.

Read the [Wikipedia article to Yerba Mate](#) 🌐 for a more information and [this blog](#) 🌐 for a good preparation instruction.



Picture 70: Mateando. Image: Jan Dudeck

1.8.15 Eatable Fruits and Seeds

There are quite some eatable fruits, seeds and plants that can be harvested along the GPT. It would be very difficult to sustain from such food but becoming a part-time-gatherer helps stretching the food rations in the backpack and adds a well-deserved variation into the hikers' diet.

Piñones: *Piñones* are the seeds of the *Araucaria* tree. The distribution range of this impressive evergreen coniferous trees reached from section GPT09 to GPT16. What we love on these living fossils are not just the imposing statures, but the pines that are full of nutritious seeds. These seeds are rich in carbohydrates and were the main staple food for the indigenous *Pehuenche* people. Their name is derived from their habit of harvesting and eating *piñones* (these seeds are called *pewen* in Mapudungun and *Pewenche* means “people of *pewen*”).

The *Pewenche* people taught us how to harvest and prepare these seeds for eating. The natives use lassos or climb up the trees to harvest *piñones* but both is neither advisable nor necessary for hikers: a lasso is heavy and it's skilled use requires exercise and experience and the spine tipped leaves makes climbing up these trees a punishment. But if you do not have to feed a family for months on your harvest you can go for the few “low-hanging fruits”. One pine or two are sufficient for one person's meal.



Picture 71: GPT12: *Araucaria* trees at the Laguna Mariñanqui.
Image: Jan Dudeck

We developed our harvesting method by trial and error using a 10 to 15 m long strong string. First we connect long sticks in example long bamboo shoots and then we lift with this long pole an open sling over a single cone. To break it off we pull on the string against the growth direction. Make sure to not get hit by the cone when pulling; the hand- to football-sized pine is covered with thorny leaves.



Picture 72, 73, 74 and 75: Harvesting *piñones*: *Pehuenche* with lasso or climbing. Hikers go for the low-hanging!

Once we downed pine we open it with a wooden wedge and a stone. The seeds then need to be separated by taking the *piñon* layer by layer apart. One pine contains typically 100 to 200 seeds what corresponds to 400 g to 1 kg of pure food. After separation the seeds need to be boiled for about 30 minutes. It is not necessary to remove the skin or husk before because after boiling the husk slips much easier. Just squeeze a *piñon* on the thicker end and the eatable seed will pop out. You can eat the seed simply cooked with some salt or fry the pre-cooked *piñones* later.

Depending on the location and the weather the cones typical mature between February and April but you may start harvesting in

January if consuming the seeds immediately. In March or April when the *piñones* are ripe you may even collect sufficient seeds on the ground below the trees. This abounded free food on the trail makes it preferable to hiking the *Araucania* region in late summer and early autumn.



Picture 76, 77, 78, 79, 80 and 81: GPT11 and GPT12: Opening and cooking *piñones* as the *Pehuenche* people were teaching us. Images: Jan Dudeck

Calafate or **Michay** (scientific name: *berberis microphylla*): It is an evergreen shrub with simple, shiny box-like leaves that grows to a height of 1 to 2 m. It has many arching branches, each covered in many spines. It grows abundantly from the *Araucania* all the way to Tierra del Fuego. You often find this plant in forest clearings on grazing land. The eatable, deep-blue berries are approximately 5 to 10 mm in diameter and contain several seeds. The spiny branches make harvesting a bit annoying but the aromatic fruits compensate the prickle. But think well before eating these berries; the myth tells that you will inevitably return to Patagonia if you eat them ("...*el que come calafate ha de volver*."). For more information read the Spanish article on [Wikiexplora](#) 🌐.



Picture 82 and 83: Eatable *Calafate* or *Michay* berries. Image: Jan Dudeck

Chaura (scientific name: *gaultheria mucronata*): It is a compact, bushy, evergreen shrub with glossy green leaves and solitary white flowers in spring, followed in summer and autumn by showy globose berries up to 1.5 cm in diameter. This plant grows predominantly above the tree line. The fruits do not contain noticeable hard seeds and come in different colours that range from deep purple through red and pink to pure white. When ripe the fruits are somewhat sweet and the taste and texture reminds in apples. For more read the Spanish article on [Wikipedia](#) 🌐.



Picture 87: GPT26H: Chaura just above the tree line.



Picture 84, 85 and 86: White, pink and red Chaura berries. Image: Jan Dudeck

Murtilla de Magellanes (scientific name: *empetrum rubrum*): It is a low shrub, typically 10 to 40 cm tall with evergreen foliage. This species often grows close to the tree line and can tolerate alpine conditions such as strong winds and high sun exposure. The before mentioned *Chaura* and *Murtilla de Magellanes* often share the same habitat. The somewhat watery tasteless fruits are small red berries of 4 to 8 mm diameter. For more information read the Spanish article on [Wikipedia](#) 🌐.



Picture 88 and 89: *Murtilla de Magellanes*. Image: Jan Dudeck



Picture 90: GPT38: Typical habitat of *Chaura* and *Murtilla de Magellanes*. Image: Jan Dudeck



Maqui (scientific name: *aristotelia chilensis*): It is a evergreen small tree reaching up to 5 m in height. Its divided trunk has a smooth bark. The branches are abundant, thin and flexible. The leaves are simple, opposite, hanging, oval-lanceolate, with serrated edges, naked and coriaceous. The leaf venation is well visible and the leaf stalk is strong red. They yield a small, purple-black berries that are approximately 4 to 6 mm in diameter and contain 4 to 8 angled seeds with a taste similar to blackberries. For more information read the Spanish article on [Wikipedia](#) 🌐.

Nalca (scientific name: *gunnera tinctoria*): It is a characteristic large-leaved plant that grows to more than two metres tall in very humid locations. It is unrelated to rhubarb but looks similar from a distance and has similar culinary uses. You can eat the peeled steam preferably from the youngest leaves. It can be consumed raw or cooked. This plant has been introduced to many parts of the world as an ornamental plant and in some countries (for instance New Zealand, Great Britain and Ireland) it has spread from gardens and became an invasive species. For more information read the Spanish article on [Wikipedia](#) 🌐.

Apart from these native plants you can find in settlements and next to *puestos* the “classic” fruit trees: apples, pears, cherries and plums. These trees were introduced from Europe with the multiple waves of immigrants. If the location is abandoned feel free to serve yourself otherwise obviously ask the owner first if you can harvest some fruits. Blackberries grow in some parts abandonedly and often serve as hedge on the roadside to discourage intruders.

Add images in this chapter.

1.8.16 What to Bring and What to Leave

If you come from overseas than my recommendation is: **Bring all your gear but no food and no fuel.** Camping is very popular in Chile and Argentina but finding light and rugged hiking gear is difficult. And if you find it, it will probably cost substantially more than in the US or Europe. The rising number of outdoor stores in Santiago de Chile and in the more popular tourist towns helps to replace lost or damaged items.

The relative isolated location of Chile protected this country from many disastrous agricultural plagues and Chiles tries hard to keep it this way²⁰. Food that may carry agricultural pests and all seeds are strictly banned from being imported by individuals²¹. Respect these rules to protect your host country from agricultural diseases and invasive species.

On most border checkpoints the SAG (Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero) does pedantic check of all bags. Everything that is classified as a potential risk is confiscated on the border and destroyed. On the airport and major border crossings the SAG deploys specially trained sniffer dog²² to search banned items. Even a left-over

²⁰ This is similar to Australia and New Zealand; two countries who apply similar strict import rules and regulations.

²¹ Importing food and seeds is possible but this requires special permits and checks.

²² Sniffer dogs that do not respond to drugs or explosives but apples!

**BIENVENIDO/A A CHILE
DECLARACIÓN JURADA
WELCOME TO CHILE
AFFIDAVIT**

ESTA DECLARACIÓN DEBE SER LLENADA POR TODA PERSONA QUE INGRESE AL PAÍS
TO BE FILLED IN BY ANY PERSON ENTERING THE COUNTRY

I. IDENTIFICACIÓN / Personal Particulars

1. _____ Masculino ☐ / Femenino ☐
Apellidos / Last Name Nombres / Names

2. NACIONALIDAD _____ 3. PAÍS DE PROCEDENCIA _____
Nationality Country of Origin

4. DIRECCIÓN EN CHILE _____
Address in Chile

5. DOCUMENTO DE VIAJE: Tipo _____ N° _____
Travel Document Type

6. Nombre Control Fronterizo/Aeropuerto/Puerto de ingreso a Chile: _____
Border Control Name / Airport / Port of Entry into Chile

7. Medio de transporte de ingreso a Chile: ☐ Nave ☐ Avión ☐ Tren ☐ Bus ☐ Camión ☐ Auto ☐ Moto ☐ Otro
Means of Transportation into Chile: Vessel Plane Train Bus Truck Car Motorcycle Other

HE LEÍDO LAS INSTRUCCIONES QUE APARECEN EN EL REVERSO DEL FORMULARIO Y DECLARO BAJO JURAMENTO QUE:
I have read the instructions of the back side of this Form and I hereby declare under oath that:

II. SERVICIO NACIONAL DE ADUANAS / National Customs Service

a) MERCANCÍAS / GOODS
Traigo mercancías no comprendidas en el concepto de equipaje (descritas en el reverso). ☐ SI / Yes ☐ No
I am carrying goods that are not considered to be part of my luggage (details on the back side).

b) INSTRUMENTOS NEGOCIABLES AL PORTADOR
BEARER NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS
Traigo al país (Chile) más de US\$10.000 de los Estados Unidos de América o su equivalente en otras monedas en efectivo, o instrumentos negociables al portador por montos superiores al señalado. ☐ SI / Yes ☐ No
I am bringing into the country (Chile) more than US\$10,000 or its equivalent in other currencies, cash or bearer negotiable instruments over this amount.

III. SERVICIO AGRÍCOLA Y GANADERO (SAG) / Agricultural and Livestock Service

a) DECLARO TRAER CONMIGO UNO O MÁS PRODUCTOS DE ORIGEN VEGETAL O ANIMAL. ☒ SI / Yes ☐ No
LEER INSTRUCCIONES AL REVERSO (página 2).
I DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I AM CARRYING ONE OR MORE PLANT OR ANIMAL PRODUCTS.
PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK SIDE (PAGE 2)

NO SE EXPONGA A MULTAS, SI TIENE DUDAS, DECLARE O CONSULTE AL PERSONAL DEL SAG.
DO NOT EXPOSE YOURSELF TO BE FINED, IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS, DO DECLARE OR MAKE YOUR ENQUIRIES TO SAG OFFICIALS.

El declarar SI, no necesariamente implica autorización para ingresar los productos que usted porta, ya que deben cumplir con las regulaciones legales vigentes.
Declaring YES does not necessarily imply authorization to import the products you are carrying, as they must comply with the legal regulations in force.

b) ESTA DECLARACIÓN INCLUYE EL EQUIPAJE DE MENORES DE 18 AÑOS:
THIS AFFIDAVIT INCLUDES BAGGAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OLD: ☐ SI / Yes ☐ No

Si la respuesta es afirmativa, indicar: N° de hombres N° de mujeres
If the answer is yes, please indicate: Number of men Number of women

FECHA / /
Date Day Month Year

FIRMA _____
Signature

Picture 91: SAG Declaration. Declare "Si/Yes"!

garlic clove in the bottom-mystery-layer of your backpack gets treated as a serious breach of this food-trafficking-ban. Therefore, bringing foodstuff from overseas is not advisable (and also not necessary). These restrictions apply and get enforced regardless if flying in from overseas or crossing the border on foot on a minor checkpoint.

Strictly banned items are:

- All fresh fruits, vegetables and nuts (this normally includes dehydrated fruits)
- All raw meat products (i.e. Salami and raw ham)
- All unpasteurised milk products like raw milk and cheese
- Other animal products like eggs and honey
- All kinds of seeds



Picture 92: SAG Logo

When entering Chile you need to fill and sign a declaration (“Sworn statement”) if carrying plant or animal products. On this declaration the definition is very broad and includes all banned but also all permitted items²³. Therefore, the best and only correct answer is tagging “YES”. If ask, explain that you are aware of the restrictions and outline what you are carrying. If you declare “NO” on the statement but something banned is found, you will be charged a high fine. But if you tagged “YES” before no fine will be charged.

²³ The broad description includes i.e. a cotton T-shirt (made of a plant product) and a leather shoe (leather is a animal product) but you can obviously bring such items as they are processed in a way that they do not represent a risk for the agricultures.

Only processed food that is sterile can be taken over the border into Chile. Example of **normally permitted items** are:

- Bread, cookies and other baked items
- Pasta, rice, cuscus, polenta, flour and dehydrated potato puree
- All canned and all concealed pasteurised items also if containing milk and meat
- Sweats like chocolate, candies and cereal bars
- Cereals, corn flakes, milk powder and chocolate powder (muesli even if containing dehydrated fruits is normally tolerated)
- Instant meals like dehydrated trekking food in concealed bags

Theoretically the same rules apply when crossing into Argentina, but controls are often much more relaxed and you do not need fill and sign a declaration.

1.8.17 Cost of Travelling

Chile and Argentina are not budget or low-cost travel countries. Prices are similar or even higher if compared with North America and Europe. South of Puerto Montt in the Patagonian heartland prices get even higher due to the costly logistics.

To cover the cost while hiking on the GPT you should have a budget of approximately 1000 US Dollars per person per month. 800 US Dollars per person per month is the recommended minimum budget and you should not attempt this trail if you have less money available. This travel budget pays for all food, occasionally an accommodation, local transport i.e. to get to the trail and to resupply towns and this budget covers entrance fees where applicable. This monthly travel budget does not include the airfare to Chile or Argentina and excludes purchasing your hiking gear.

A good part of the GPT hikers in recent years required more “town time” than they originally anticipated. Periods of poor weather, health related recovery time and plan changes were factors that often increased and prolonged the stays in towns and villages where accommodation is not free and where someone tends to spend more money. This is considered in the recommended budget. If everything goes well, you might actually spend substantially less than 800 USD per month, but best-case-scenarios should not be the planning baseline for budgeting a hike in this region.

Be a good ambassador of the hiking community and be generous where you are treated with generosity. If you get food or accommodation give what is appropriate even if your hosts don't ask for money. Insist if necessary! The general rule is that you ask to get the right-of-way for free but any product or service is paid fairly. Consider that the herdsmen, the indigenous *Pehuenche* and the settlers along the trail can't effort to be generous “trail angels”. If they grant you the right-of-way you already received a gift. By paying for food and services you create a positive experience with hikers what is essential to maintain the trail open.

If you are in a remote place along the route and someone offers you some food or accommodation than please don't bargain for a discount if the asking price is reasonable. Take it or leave it! I experienced these locals on the trail as generous and reasonable and haggling would be in most cases rude.

The table below shows the appropriate price range for orientation. Naturally as more remote the location as higher prices are appropriate. An item that was carried on horseback for hours or days has a higher value than the same product in a supermarket. And as more south you get as costlier the logistics becomes²⁴.

To be able to pay in remote places make sure to carry enough local currency and plenty of small bills as getting change is often complicated. Paying with foreign currency is not advisable, in particular not in Chile where only Chilean Pesos (CLP) are accepted. Only in Argentina US Dollars (USD) are occasionally accepted or even welcome.

What should be free is the right-of-way and pitching your tent for one night in a place without any services. And there is one more thing that is always free of charge and for which paying would be an offence: being invited to share some *mate*.

²⁴ I was surprised to learn that settlers in Villa O'Higgins (southern end of the Carrera Austral) pay for a *quintal harina* (50 kg sack of flour) about 2 to 3 times as much as in Santiago.

Item	Comment	Unit	Lower Price Range	Upper Price Range
Bread	Bread or Sopaipilla baked for you on the trail.	Kilogram	2000 CLP	3000 CLP
Flour	<i>Harina (cruda)</i> to make bread yourself.	Kilogram	1000 CLP	2000 CLP
<i>Harina tostada</i>	Toasted ground wheat.	Kilogram	2000 CLP	3000 CLP
Eggs	Free-range eggs of happy chicken from homestead farms.	Egg	100 CLP	200 CLP
Goat	Seller can butcher the animal on request.	Entire animal	30000 CLP	40000 CLP
Lamb	Seller can butcher the animal on request.	Entire animal	40000 CLP	60000 CLP
Meat	Rarely available on the trail.	Kilogram	3000 CLP	6000 CLP
Cheese	Rarely available on the trail. Only few people make cheese.	Kilogram	7500 CLP	10000 CLP
Cooked Meal	Warm meal cooked for you.	Per person per meal	3000 CLP	6000 CLP
Cold Meal	<i>Desayuno</i> or <i>Once</i> : Bread, marmalade, cheese, tea, coffee.	Per person per meal	2000 CLP	4000 CLP
Accommodation	A bed for one night. Standard may vary substantially.	Per person per night	5000 CLP	15000 CLP
Other Items	Items from supermarkets for resale in remote areas on the trail. Multiply the typical supermarket price with a factor of 1.5 to 2 to estimate a fair price in remote places.	Price factor	1.5	2

Table 5: Appropriate prices for food and services in remote locations

1.8.18 Entrance Permits and Fees

To be issued.

1.8.19 Money

To be issued.



Picture 93: Chilean Pesos. Image: Jan Dudeck

1.8.20 Rescue System

Chile and Argentina have limited rescue capabilities if compared with North America and Europe. There seems no clear procedures in place to ensure that experienced and properly equipped personal responds quickly to an emergency in remote areas of the Andes. Technically the police is in charge but they often lack the expertise and equipment to respond quickly to a distress call. So don't expect that a helicopter hovers over you an hour after you pushed the emergency button on your InReach or Spot satellite transmitter. They might send out a police patrol on horse the next day but if they don't have a GPS (or don't know how to use it) it might take a while till they reach you. In some areas private and government owned helicopters are stationed but to my knowledge these are not integrated in a fast response rescue system.

Before you depart make arrangements for emergencies. You will need someone Spanish speaking who is able to coordinate and follow up rescue efforts if needed.

And more important: Take every opportunity to not do stupid things while you are out there. Prevent accidents in the first place.

1.9 Dangers and Annoyances on the GPT

Introduction to be issued. Images to be added.

1.9.1 Trail Condition

The Greater Patagonian trail is not an official trail that is set up and managed by a government agency. This means that large parts of the route network are not monitored and maintained by public authorities. The maintenance of many routes relies on the needs and initiative of the few local users in example the *arrieros* that drive livestock to pastures and the *poladores* that live in the remote back-country. If not maintained fast growing vegetation can close a trail within a few years in particular in the [Valdivian Temperate Rain Forest](#) 🌳. Rain wears on many routes and land slides can bit big chunks out of trails. Also volcanic eruptions and earthquakes can destroy or alter routes.

Therefore, attention and good judgment are needed when hiking the GPT because some trails change or become impassable with time. Check your GPS regularly but don't follow blindly the GPS tracks. Be prepared to seek alternative routes or turn around when advancing becomes unsafe. A GPS with the track files and a detailed electronic map, a backup navigation device and sufficient backup power are essential.

Check regularly the [GPT Facebook group](#) for updates to your next sections and provide such feedbacks to other hikers whenever you have the opportunity i.e. during resupply stops.

1.9.2 River Crossings

River crossings are possibly the greatest hazard for hikers on the GPT in particular if attempted during inappropriate times or at not suitable locations. Snowmelt and heavy rain can raise rivers quickly making rivers impassable that during other times are easily forded. Also the bed of a river can change and a location that once was suitable for fording can become dangerous.

Therefore, do not rely on the GPS waypoint for river crossings but always judge the situation yourself before attempting to ford a river. Take your time to find a suitable ford and don't rush into the water. You may seek an alternative location along the river or turn around and take an alternative route if a river crossing is hazardous.

Rivers should only be crossed with shoes and hiking poles for added stability and looking upstream. If hiking together ford rivers in groups holding firmly together with the strongest and heaviest person upstream. There are plenty of useful resources on the internet. Read i.e. the river crossing recommendations of www.thehikinglife.com 🌐 and www.sectionhiker.com 🌐.

1.9.3 Isolation

Good parts of the GPT cross remote and isolated areas. In some areas you can walk for days without seeing another human being. Therefore be prepared to help yourself in case of an accident. Always carry a first aid kit and emergency medication.

If you are hurt and unable to continue it might take weeks or more for someone else to pass and mobile phone coverage is very limited along the trail. Therefore, a satellite based emergency communication device may contribute to your survival in such an emergency. InReach offers a light weight satellite pager and emergency beacon. When pushing the emergency button it submits a distress signal via satellite with your GPS position to a rescue centre. For further information see the chapter [1.10.9](#)

[Communication on page 139.](#)

1.9.4 Weather

Storms with heavy rain may arise on all parts of the trail anytime and in elevated areas heavy snowfall may occur even in mid-summer. Therefore be always prepared and equipped for sudden severe weather changes.

In bad or instable weather do not climb a pass or venture into exposed terrain above the tree line. Rather wait or return and seek shelter if the weather changes in a concerning manner. Carry at least a poncho to protect yourself if rain or snow closes in. In instable weather keep your eyes open and memorize potential protected camp sites and puestos if you are forced to turn around to seek shelter. Selected suitable locations are documented with waypoints in the KMZ file for trekking.

All along the trail locals told about past incidents where local inhabitants and outside visitors got lost, disappeared without trace or froze to death in bad weather. Don't add another story!

1.9.5 Sun

Don't undermine the sun, in particular when crossing large snow fields or large areas of bright volcanic ash. A proper head cover, sun cream and sun glasses are essential to prevent sun-burns and snow-blindness. Don't just carry this stuff but use it preventively.

Snow-blindness can disable you for a few days if you did not wear sun glasses while crossing large snow fields in bright sunlight. The effect of snow-blindness are normally not felt until several hours after exposure when the symptoms (pain, intense tears,

eyelid twitching, discomfort) become evident. See also the [wikipedia article to Photokeratitis](#) 🌐.

1.9.6 Heat

To be issued.

1.9.7 Volcanic Eruptions

The Greater Patagonian Trail snakes through the Southern Volcanic Zone and passes and crosses numerous volcanos. The trail is therefore plastered with signs of volcanic activities. Hot springs and beautiful mountain lakes that were dammed up by lava flows are the "sunny side" of these volcanic activities; widespread devastating destruction is the other. Several major eruptions occurred in the vicinity of the trail in recent years and parts of the trail were temporarily closed due to increased volcanic activities.

Therefore hikers should be aware how to act in case of a volcanic eruption:

- Respect the volcano alerts and do not venture into areas that were closed by local authorities.
- Some volcanos show an increased seismic activity shortly before an eruption therefore series of smaller earthquakes may announce an imminent eruption. If you are close to a volcano get ready to run!
- Know your possible escape routes in case of a surprising eruption. Be aware that small streams and rivers that origin at the flanks of a volcano often rise immediately and become instantly impassable during an eruption. Therefore seek higher ground if you are next to such a swelling river.
- In case of an eruption get distance between you and the volcano. If you have more than one option try to get out of the ash rain. Consider that the predominant wind direction is from west to east.

- Try to get to a settlement since local authorities will do their best to evacuate the affected population.

[Add link to official volcano alert information.](#)

1.9.8 Earthquakes

Two of the ten heaviest earthquakes in the 20th and 21st century had their epicenter near the Greater Patagonian Trail. The 1960 Valdivia earthquake had a magnitude of 9.5 and the 2010 Bio-Bio earthquake had magnitude of 8.8. In the first 15 years of this century more than 300 earthquakes with a magnitude of 5.0 or more occurred in the area of the trail²⁵. Therefore don't be too surprised if the ground below you starts to move.

An earthquake may lose rocks, trigger landslides and cause tsunamis. Therefore be cautious when selecting your camp site. Avoid pitching your tent in areas where scree and rubble indicates a hazard zone below rocks and cliffs. If you get hit by an earthquake while walking look up to check the area above you for liberated material that comes towards you and seek shelter. If a heavy earthquake occurs while walking or camping next to a fjord or a lake get immediately on higher ground to escape a potential tsunami. Be aware that a landslide into a lake may cause a tsunami on a lake shore.

[Add link to official earthquake alert information.](#)

²⁵²⁵ Data retrieved from USGS for the area from -35°S to -45°S and -75°W to -70°W. The large majority are aftershocks of the major Bio-Bio earthquake in 2010.

1.9.9 Wild Animals

There are no bears in South America. This makes hiking more relaxed if compared with North America. You can cook at your tent and store all your food in your tent without fearing a visit of a hungry bear.

The largest living predator in Patagonia (apart from humans) is the **Puma**, also called **Cougar** or **Mountain Lion**. They normally hide and avoid contact with humans. Wikipedia states: “Attacks on humans are very rare, as cougar prey recognition is a learned behavior and they do not generally recognize humans as prey. (...) As with many predators, a cougar may attack if cornered, if a fleeing human stimulates their instinct to chase, or if a person “plays dead”. Standing still however may cause the cougar to consider a person easy prey. Exaggerating the threat to the animal through intense eye contact, loud but calm shouting, and any other action to appear larger and more menacing, may make the animal retreat. Fighting back with sticks and rocks, or even bare hands, is often effective in persuading an attacking cougar to disengage.”. For more information see: [Cougar attacks on humans on Wikipedia](#) 🌐.

Wild boar are other potentially dangerous animals. They were introduced by humans and became an invasive species. These omnivores range in particular the Araucania and love *Araucaria piñones*. Wikipedia states: “Although wild boars do not generally pose a threat to people, they occasionally attack humans. (...) Male boars become most aggressive during the mating season and may charge at humans at such times. Occasionally, female boars will attack if they feel their piglets are threatened, especially if a human physically comes between them and their young. Although a majority of boar attack victims recover with medical treatment, fatalities do occasionally occur.”. For more information see: [Wild boar aggression towards humans on Wikipedia](#) 🌐.

The Chilla or **grey fox** populates the southern cone of South America and can be found on both sides of the Andes in Chile and

Argentina. Their diet is varied and includes small and medium mammals, carrion, birds, reptiles and fruits. They sometimes attack small livestock in particular young goats and sheep but there are no records of attacks on humans. Foxes do not always show fear of humans and sometimes approach camp sites at night in search of food. Therefore do not leave any food outside of your tent but also not your smelly boots. In one camp site a fellow hiker missed one of his shoes in the morning. The park ranger later told us that this was not the first time that a fox has stolen a stinking shoe because foxes find intensive smell attractive.

1.9.10 Domesticated Animals

Most settlers and herdsman have several **dogs** to protect their home and their animal. They often show an aggressive behavior when approaching a home or a *puesto* but calm down when the owner shows up and talks with you. Therefore keep distance to the dogs as long as the owner is not in sight. You may slowly retreat and use your hiking poles as the last barrier of defence. Many settlers and herdsman discipline their dogs by throwing stones after their dogs. Therefore, if you are charged by a dog or a pack of dogs stoop down and pick up rocks (or even just simulate it) and they usually turn tail and keep distance. The action of lowering your face to a barking dog is counter intuitive but can spare you some nasty scars or a scare. In extreme situations you may have to actually throw rocks after them.

In towns and villages you often encounter feral dogs (free-roaming dogs without a owner). These dogs are rarely aggressive but follow you in hope of food and attention. Make sure that such dogs don't follow you when leaving a town or village.

When camping next to a *puesto* or a settler's home guard your food constantly otherwise a hungry dog may serve himself.

Cattle are normally rather peaceful but bulls and cows with calves may become aggressive and attack if they feel threatened.

Therefore, keep distance and do not try to pet them. A bigger thread is feral cattle. Especially in the far south domestic animals frequently escape and form wild populations. Such *baguales* are normally more aggressive and territorial than their domestic counterparts. Keep distance!

Goats are curious and always hungry what can be a bad combination for your gear. Keep them away from your camp site after you pitched your tent. Otherwise they may take a bite from your tent.

1.9.11 Insects

Tabanos or horse-flies will form an annoying aerial escort on some parts of the route network. They are abundant in December and January in humid areas i.e. the River- and Lake District in Chile.

These rather noisy flyers get attracted by dark moving objects in bright sunlight. So avoid dark cloth and do not try to chase them off with rapid movements, otherwise you will attract the attention of more of them. They inflict painful bites but do not leave an itching stitch. These insects convert even the most peaceful hiker into a ruthless killer who will proudly claim multiple kills with a single stroke.

1.9.12 Spine and Bur-Bearing Plants

Along the entire route network you will encounter annoying *Cenchrus* plants with spine-covered seeds, that use bypassing animals to spread (and now they also use hikers). Common names include buffelgrass, sandburs and sand spur. When the seeds of these leg-high plants ripen then the very sharp spines harden and the seed easily detaches from the stem.

The ripe seeds stick to most fabrics and can penetrate deep into the skin therefore be very careful when removing these thorny tiny balls from your cloth with your fingers. You can minimize "your collection" by wearing trousers made of a hard and dense fabric. I had several times a hidden broken off spine deep in a fingertip that resulted in a small wound that did not heal for days. I had to remove the spine by cutting into the skin and manually removing the spine fragment.

Other less bothersome but still annoying plants have bur-bearing seeds that stick to soft cloth like fleece but do not penetrate into the skin.

1.9.13 Diseases

The most dangerous animal for humans in Patagonia is a quite small one: the long-tailed pygmy rice rat (*Oligoryzomys longicaudatus*) and the long-haired grass mouse (*Abrothrix longipilis*). These two species are known to carry and transmit a particular aggressive strain of Hantaviruses with a mortality rate of 30% to 40%.

The typical incubation time is 1 to 3 weeks but also cases with 3 to 45 days between the suspected exposure and the disease outbreak have been reported. Early symptoms are similar to a flu and include fatigue, fever and muscle aches. Other possible symptoms are headaches, dizziness, chills, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and abdominal pain. Seek medical attention if you experience such symptoms.

Wikipedia states: "There is no known antiviral treatment, but natural recovery from the virus is possible with supportive treatment. Patients with suspected hantavirus are usually admitted to the hospital and given oxygen and mechanical ventilation support to help them breathe during the acute pulmonary stage. As the virus can be transmitted by rodent saliva, excretia, and bites, control

of rats and mice in areas frequented by humans is key for disease prevention.”

For more information see: [Hantavirus on Wikipedia](#) 🌐

The main source of infection are inhaled aerosols of mice droppings. Therefore the recommended preventive measures are:

- Avoid any contact with mice and mice dropping.
- Do no use any shelters that are not well ventilated or where you can see traces of mice.
- Keep your food protect and away from mice in particular during the night. The same applies to your pots, dishes and waste to not attract mice.
- Camp in clean, open area that do not provide hideouts for mice. Avoid shrubbery.
- Use a tent with a closed floor and a fully concealed inner tent.
- Drink only secure water and disinfect or boil it if necessary.
- Do not eat low hanging wild fruits that may attract mice as well.

1.10 Equipment Considerations

To be issued.

1.10.1 Shelter

To be issued.

1.10.2 Sleeping Gear

To be issued.

1.10.3 Backpack

To be issued.

1.10.4 Clothing

To be issued.

1.10.5 Shoes

To be issued.

1.10.6 Cooking

To be issued.

1.10.7 Food

To be issued.

1.10.8 Maps and Navigation Devices

Only a small proportion of the GPT route network was made for hiking or especially prepared for hikers. Instead, the GPT is composed out of existing routes that were made by the local inhabitants to serve their purposes. They are i.e. used to drive animals to summer pastures, to get to remote outposts or to extract wood from the forest. Therefore, these trails are of variable quality and mostly lack trail markers and signposts. Also, about 8% to 10% of the routes lead through cross-country terrain without a visible path. All this distinguishes the GPT from established long-distance trails and makes this route network so inconsistent and challenging to navigate.

The topographic maps issued by the *Instituto Geográfico Militar* (IGM maps, scale 1:50'000) cover the entire Chile but do not show many of the trails. Therefore, these detailed topographic maps may supplement the navigation on the GPT but remain an insufficient guide. A range of other hiking maps show bits and pieces of the GPT but these maps are inconsistent, of variable quality and also insufficient to lead you over major parts the GPT. Also the cost and the combined weight of paper maps make “classic navigation” with maps unsuitable for the GPT. A basic GPS handheld device costs and weights less then 20 IGM paper maps and 20 IMG maps don't get you very far on the GPT.

The only reliable and most practical way to navigate on the GPT is therefore using a GPS handheld device.

But a GPS alone will not do the job. It needs a GPS with the digital GPT track files correctly installed. A properly set up GPS with the track files will guide you through this labyrinth of faint and well-maintained trails and keeps you on track when traversing cross-country terrain. The digital documentation of the GPT is also essential to prepare your adventure on the GPT. If installed in Google Earth you can virtually hike and paddle the GPT on a computer screen while planning you endeavour.

Before I suggest possible navigation devices I want to make one thing very clear: I'm not getting sponsored by Garmin and I'm not a fan of Garmin. The Garmin firmware is neither intuitive nor reliable. The Garmin TOPO maps for Chile and Argentina are poor. Garmin GPS devices do not read Google Earth KMZ files. The artificially build-in limits for tracks and waypoints impedes using the Garmin supported GPX file format for the GPT track files. To work around these limitations, I have to process the KMZ track file into a Garmin readable IMG map file what is a nauseating complicated ordeal. My list of complains is longer and Garmin does not want to listen.

The reason I still use and recommend a Garmin GPS device is the lack of a better alternative; at least I have not found something that seems more suitable to me. I never became friend of using a smartphone as primary navigation device: the battery running time is annoying short while continuously recording tracks, you can't change batteries when needed and it's too fragile to be constantly carried exposed especially when packrafting. Therefore, I kept hiking for 5 years with a Garmin GPSmap62s. So, me and my GPS device are no best friends but colleagues with a functioning work-relationship. We know each other for years and found a way to work around the other's tics.

A GPS handheld device is reasonable waterproof and robust. The plastic casing of my 5-year-old device looks pretty worn but it still works as on day one and the screen has no crack and no annoying scratches. And this after carrying it about 5000 km always exposed on my backpack shoulder straps or on my PFD when packrafting (PFD: personal flotation device). A smartphone would certainly not have survived this ordeal. When running out of power I simply swap batteries and keep going. With my older model and my way of use at this time two AA NiMH batteries lasts about 2 days. Other battery types can supply a more basic model up to 5 hiking days with power. To my knowledge, only a Garmin handheld device displays correctly the IMG map files that I update annually before the start of the hiking season.

Using a smart phone instead of the handheld GPS seemingly reduces the base weight by 100 g but it comes with penalties:

- The power consumption of a smart phone is higher when continuously recording. And making a full GPS record is part of the conditions to use the track files. See [1.15 Terms and Conditions for Using the Hiker's Manual and the Track Files](#).
- You can't change batteries when running out of power but need to recharge a smartphone with a power bank or solar panel. While doing this the smart phone is more exposed to mechanical and water damage so recharging a smart phone while walking or paddling is not advisable.
- You need to process the track files yourself. Most hikers who did this lost a good part of the information in this process and could not easily distinguish between regular routes and optional routes or well-defined trails and approximate cross-country routes. When using the IMG map files on a Garmin GPS handheld device all this is instantly visible based on the line types.

Therefore, I strongly recommend using Garmin GPS handheld device as the primary navigation device and a smart phone as the backup navigation device. The handheld GPS should come with a Micro-SD card slot to store the track files and the topographic maps on a removable storage. Always carry a backup Micro-SD card with a precise copy of all files in the same folders. If the Micro-SD card fails, you can swap the card and hopefully keep going. Or if the GPS device breaks or is lost you can purchase a new device and use it with the backup Micro-SD card.

If you look for a basic model I suggest the Garmin eTrex20x or eTrex30x. They are small, light-weight, robust and have all required navigation functions combined with a low power consumption. I just replaced my 5-year-old GPSmap62 device for a simpler Garmin eTrex30x. I'm not sure if a fancier device with a touch screen and more features pays off. Especially in rain or when packrafting a touch screen might be more hassle than benefit. A touch screen also reduces battery life.

Once you have your GPS device work step by step through chapter [3.1 GPS Navigation Devices on page 505](#) and [3.2 Digital Documentation of the GPT on page 553](#). In these sections of the Hiker's Manual I describe in detail how to setup your GPS, how to obtain the digital track and waypoint documentation files and how to install, use and read these files.

To plan and prepare a hike I highly recommend the maps “*Mapa Turístico Chiletur Copec*” in the scale 1:400'000. This series of nine road maps covers all Chile and parts of Argentina. For the GPT only the Map 4 to Map 9 are relevant. The scale makes these maps useless for navigation on the ground but to keep an overview and to arrange road travel these maps are brilliant. We normally carry the two or three relevant maps to also show people on the trail what we are doing. You can buy these maps in Chile or better online while you plan your adventure. Try on Amazon or www.landkartenschropp.de 🌐 (German site).

- Map 4 “Zona Central”: GPT01 to GPT03
- Map 5 “Maule y Bío Bío”: GPT03 to GPT14
- Map 6 “Villarrica, Llanquihue y Chiloé”: GPT14 to GPT27 and GPT70P to GTP78P
- Map 7 “Carretera Austral”: GPT27 to GPT37 and GPT80P to GPT92P
- Map 8 “Campos de Hielo y Torres del Paine”: GPT37 to GPT50
- Map 9 “Tierra del Fuego y Antártica”: GPT60 to GPT69

Detailed topographic paper maps of a specific area may supplement GPS navigation when investigating new routes. The maps issued by the *Instituto Geográfico Militar* (IGM maps, scale 1:50'000) are often the best or only option. These paper maps can be purchased in the IGM office in Santiago de Chile (Avenida Santa Isabel 1651) or online (www.igm.cl 🌐) but the price tag of 8580 CLP per map makes this a costly supplement. We normally rely on our GPS (primary devise) and Smart Phone (backup) only.

Should you stumble over the maps issued by “Pixmap” don’t waste your money on them. The issuer Macarena Pérez Correa used without any consultation the DRAFT track files that I published in 2014 or 2015 on Wikiexplora. These early track files contained numerous unverified exploration suggestions. Without paying attention to such important details Macarena mashed all routes into one map, mixing the first verified routes with unverified investigation suggestions that partly turned out inexistent. Since the publication of these early DRAFT track files I made countless updates and substantial improvements of the regular route. All these updates and corrections are missing on the “Pixmap” paper maps.

1.10.9 Communication Devices

Mobile phone coverage along the GPT is very limit. Be prepared to remain offline between resupply town stops even if you occasionally cross areas with some coverage on some sections. If you feel a strong urge to reconnect with the outside world from the trail in between towns ask locals along the way. They normally know these spots *con señal* (mobile phone signal) if there are any. These locations sometimes even have names i.e. on GPT23 the “*Filocutorio*” that can be translate as “Phone Box Ridge”.

This limited coverage makes the GPT an unsuitable terrain for social media hikers that can’t walk without instantly telling others about it. Think twice before venturing onto the GPT if your mind constantly seeks selfie backgrounds or phrases the next post for immediate sharing. If you are afraid of losing followers by not posting daily then the GPT is scary terrain. It’s a route network that favours the quit and patient hikers that prefer to experience and listen first before speaking up to others.

The lack of mobile phone coverage and the remoteness of many routes makes a satellite communication devise an essential safety item. Especially if an accident disables you from walking out you can ask for rescue even if this will probably take days and

not hours. I do not recommend satellite phones as they are expensive, heavy and power hungry. A much better choice are satellite pagers to send and receive short text messages and submit a distress signal in case of an emergency. Three highly recommended devices are:

- Garmin InReach Mini
- Garmin InReach SE+
- Garmin InReach Explorer+

For more information to this potentially life-saving subject read in the Appendix chapter [3.1.3 Satellite Communication Device starting on page 517](#).

To set up your mobile phone for use in Chile and Argentina you may consider purchasing a local SIM card in these countries. Chile recently changed laws and regulations and mobile phones purchased outside of Chile must be registered first. Otherwise the mobile phone will be blocked with a locally purchased SIM card. The new regulations are intended to substantially reduce the 400'000 phones stolen every year in Chile. While still at home read carefully <http://prepaid-data-sim-card.wikia.com/wiki/chile> 🌐 for more information. For this registration of your mobile phone you need:

- Scan of passport or ID document
- Manufacturer and model of your mobile phone
- A photograph of the 15-digit IMEI number of your mobile phone

1.10.10 Power Supply

To keep your your navigation and communication devices powered up you need a carefully considered power supply strategy that matches your electronic equipment, personal user habits, your hiking pace and the sections that you plan to hike. To choose your recharge strategy you either need to know the power consumption of your devices or test it before you depart. In chapter [3.1.4 Batteries and Electrical Power Supply starting on page 519](#) I discuss in great detail several options but I do not provide a “must-have-gear-list”. Choose wisely what fits your individual requirements.

1.10.11 Packrafting Gear

To be issued.

1.11 Packrafting Recommendations

To be issued. Remove if Packrafting Recommendations are fully covered by previous chapters.

1.12 Critics and Concerns

To be issued.

1.13 Understanding your Motives

To be issued.

1.13.1 Explore and Discover

Our ancestors were hunters and gatherers that had to be constantly on the move to collect the next meals and to pursue promising prey. And our ancestors walked seeking new homelands. They made it out of Africa and eventually populate all corners of the world on foot. Being an enduring walker and a curious explorer was a huge evolutionary advantage in our ancestor's development. This evolutionary heritage is deeply coded into our genetics and expressed in a body that is perfectly designed for walking and in a mind with appetite for the unknown.

We are the descendants of these restless walkers and this genesis shapes us more than we might recognize in our current daily life. The technological revolution of the last century dramatically changed today's necessity to walk but not our body and not our mind. Our body remains the highly efficient bio-mechanical machine that moves with endurance and agility in very diverse environments. And our mind has an innate curiosity that makes us notorious explores. Hiking long and far into unknown terrain satisfies both instincts, the desire to move and the desire to discover even if our today's survival does not any more depend on it.

When I use the words "explore" and "discover" than I use it in a different sense than these terms were historically used. I use "to

explore” without implicating “to exploit” and I use “to discover” without including “to expose”. The famous explorers of the past centuries were not (just) driven by curiosity but by the desire to take ownership of the discovered or at least to exploit it. Being a sustainable explorer and discoverer on the GPT limits you to a brief visit and all you can take with you are your memories and pictures. And being a sustainable guest means that you worry about what you leave: no trace on the land but positive memories with the people you met.

The appetite to explore while being on the move is essential to appreciate the GPT. Of course, you are not the first. You follow trails that others have created but you discover step by step the personally unknown on often barely travelled routes. On the GPT you need to move through very diverse environments that challenge your endurance and agility and test your willingness to learn and adopt like our ancestors had to learn and adopt to very diverse landscapes while populating so different parts of the world. And you meet people on the trail that live a very different way of life compared to you. Most inhabitants along the trail rely on livestock for income and purpose of life. Horses and dogs are their essential servants and companions. Distances are measured in hours and days on horseback and not in kilometers or miles. And mountain lions are not exotic animals that they wish to spot but an imminent threat for their animals. Therefore, sharing time with these people gives you the opportunity to taste a different way of life making a hike on the GPT a cultural exploration.

But if your curiosity has dimmed, then you will be disappointed with the GPT because this trail will not match your expectations. It's a trail for hikers that wish to be surprised. Starting on the GPT with clear expectations, a detailed plan and a set timeline will poison your journey because this compromises your ability to explore, adapt and learn. And if you do not seek the acquaintance with the inhabitants of southern Andes then you are misplaced on the GPT because you are just their guest.

Hikers that are driven by pure curiosity are on an “ego-trip” in the best possible sense. They do it just for themselves and not for others. They walk to experience the land and the people without the necessity to prove anything to anyone, neither to themselves nor to others. They don’t need to be seen because they just want to see. Therefore, they can follow the trail without worrying who follows them on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. And such hikers can admire without seeking admiration. Curious hikers will chat with the people on the trail to listen their stories without the urge to make a story. Curiosity is self-sufficient and does not need the attention or applause of others. Therefore, hikers driven by curiosity have the freedom to explore and appreciate the land and the people undistracted.

1.13.2 Archive and Compete

For some hikers explore and discover is not enough. They aim for a clearly defined goal, that they either archive or miss. They want to summarize their achievement in one sentence or in one impressive number. For this they comply with self-imposed rules and restrictions to increase the challenge. And some compete with other hikers like athletes’ contest with each other. For these testers not only their own achievement matters, but how it compares to others that hiked with the same self-imposed rules and restrictions. Classic challenges and competitions in the hiking world are:

1. Hiking with connecting footsteps from one geographically significant point to another without motorized means to advance
2. Hiking with connecting footsteps completely unsupported without even using motorized means to resupply
3. Thru-hiking a complete trail with connecting footsteps
4. Competing for the fastest known time (FKT) in such a thru-hike
5. Hiking a set distance in a limited time

Walking with connecting footsteps means hiking and packrafting on a continuous line without using motorized means to advance. This does not rule out taking a bus or to hitchhike to get to a resupply town and back. But in these case hikers that apply this principle return to the very same point where they jumped on a bus or a car and continue walking where they stopped to create a long continuous line of footsteps. Connecting footsteps also permits flipping the hiking direction or changing the section sequence if all hiked sections connect with each other eventually. Flipping and changing the sequence can be required when weather and seasonal limitations make a continuous hike impractical.

For me hiking with connecting footsteps has the following benefits:

- By hiking with connecting footsteps you reward yourself with discovering the hidden and the unpromoted areas. These overlooked and barely visited regions provide a genuine experience of the land and the people that you normally can't find in the overrun tourist hotspots.
- Walking with connecting footsteps creates the necessary perseverance that carries hikers through the more demanding sections. Without maintaining connecting footsteps someone is more tempted to take motorized transport around such hurdles. Taking on the challenge and overcoming the hurdles makes the hiking experience more intense and creates lasting memories that are often recalled years later with gratitude.
- Walking continuously creates the rhythm and "the flow" that prevents fatigue. When hiking just a few days exhaustion is natural because the body and the mind are not used to it. But being on the move with an appropriate pace for weeks and months changes this. Than your body digests a healthy portion of footsteps each day with relative ease.

- By not constricting your journey to the few hyped locations you minimize your time in transit. Instead of spending a good part of your time in between trails you can spend most of your travel time on trails. This is particular true in Patagonia where the distances between the famous national parks are significant and driving is slow and public transportation can be infrequent.
- By spending your money and your admiration in the unpromoted areas and not in the tourist hotspots you have a positive impact on the visited communities other then by following the tourist troops into overrun places that suffer from the crowds.

For all these reasons I developed and published the GPT as an interconnected network. But when hiking on the GPT with connecting footsteps two limitations must be considered:

1. If you aim for connecting footsteps on the GPT have in mind that you need some motorized transport to resupply. In the north is a long stretch without villages and shops on the trail. On the roughly 750 km from the start of section GPT05 to the finish of section GPT12 you will find only 4 or 5 mini-shops that may help to stretch your food reserves but that are unreliable for a planned full restock. Therefore, the only practical way to resupply in this area is leaving the trail by bus or by car, shop and rest in a town a good distance off the trail and return to the same point by bus or by car to continue hiking.
2. When hiking but also when packrafting several lakes on the route are to be crossed by ferry²⁶. The Lago General Carrera

²⁶ These two lakes are also critical obstacles when packrafting. Both lakes are infamous for the frequent furious wind and the resulting huge waves. Even the rather big ferries get sometimes suspended when heavy wind makes the passage unsafe. Crossing the Lago General Carrera and the Lago O'Higgins with a packraft on the regular ferry route is suicidal but both lakes have a narrow that is just 3 km to 4 km wide. At these narrows each lake may be crossed in about one hour by packraft but only during one of the rare calm moments. If you are a highly experienced packrafter that considers crossing both lakes by packraft expect to be stuck for several days on the shore till the wind calms down and you can attempt a crossing. And if you run out of luck and low on food you may need to return on foot without even having attempt a crossing by packraft.

and the Lago O'Higgins are very large and getting around these lakes on land requires several hundred kilometres of road walking; nothing that I consider and suggest doing.

These two limitations are irrelevant for hikers that walk with connecting footsteps for the above listed reasons. Even if ferries technically break the connecting footsteps they do not alter character of such a long hike. But these limitations are bad news for achiever that ban themselves from using any motorized means en route to have a catchy story to tell after the endeavour.

A personal note: We are drawn to the remote and overlooked areas to investigate barely known routes. But in places where the only option is a primary road we feel no remorse when taking a bus or hitchhiking. In such places we are happy to fast forward and gain time for the next exploration route ahead of us.

By including primary roads into the route network I do not instruct anyone to walk such roads. I simply show the available options and if there is no nicer trail then I incorporate the existing roads that connect the more attractive trail sections. Make your choice and decide yourself if walking these bits and pieces or not. You do not need to prove anything to anyone if you hike your hike.

To be completed (Remark to thru-hiking and competing and selected examples to “Archive and Compete”).

²⁷ Interestingly both films feature hikers, that did not Thru-Hike a trail and probably did not seriously aim for it.

²⁸ The Argentine town Ushuaia successfully advertises itself as the most southern city on the planet and many ambitious hiking and cycling tours start or finish for this reason here. But the Chilean village Puerto Williams on the Isla Navarino is about 6 minutes of latitude further south.

1.13.3 Publicity, Promote and Publish

To be issued.

1.13.4 Walking Away and Leaving Behind

To be issued.

1.14 Code of Conduct on the GPT

The trail leads mostly through unspoiled wilderness with little visible human intervention. And where you meet some settlers or herdsmen you are normally welcome and get treated as honorable guest. To maintain this relationship I plead to all hikers to follow the below code of conduct:

- Do not make camp fires where legally banned or denied by land owners. Open fires are strictly prohibited in national parks in Chile and Argentina and severe penalties are applicable. Wildfires are the biggest concern of park ranges and the main motive to ban over-night stays and to restrict access to remote parts of national parks. Also land owners fear wild fires that may destroy their property and often permit a traverse only if no camp fires are made. Therefore, be a respectful and pleasant guest by complying with the rules set by your hosts.
- Light camp fires only where permitted and in circumstances when it is completely safe to do so. This might be the case when you are a guest at a *puesto* or in a shelter with an established fire place. Under no circumstances light a fire in dry areas or when wind can spread the fire. Use only small branches of death wood and put the fire out with plenty of water before leaving or going to sleep. Be aware that the smell of smoke severely disturbs wildlife therefore avoid making fires in areas with wildlife. Wild fires caused severe destruction since human arrival and remain the biggest hazard for the preservation of this region.
- Respect the rights of the land owners. Don't dispute over the right-of-way but ask kindly for permission to pass. If you meet people on horses on a narrow trail step to the side and let them pass first. It's for your own safety.

- Leave all gates in the condition as you found them. If a gate was closed, close it after you. If a gate was open, leave it open. Be sure to note how the gates are held as some techniques are unique. Under no circumstances cut or damage fences.
- If you pass an isolated *puesto* or homestead farm closely it is a good practice to whistle or make you heired. This alerts both humans and animals that someone is passing and can avoid a great deal of unpleasantness. Better wake up a snoozing dog with a safety margin then being caught by this dog while trying to sneak past.
- Near *puestos* or settlers homes you often find suitable spots to camp because the grazing animals create and maintain nice patches of pasture. If the location is inhabited always introduce yourself and ask first for permission before pitching your tent. This also calms down the dogs and might give you the opportunity to purchase some extra food.
- Be a pleasant guest and do not abuse the hospitality of the people along the trail and pay fairly for what they share with you. Using a trail or staying overnight in a not maintained location should be free of charge but if you get invited to a meal or use a camp ground that was installed by local settlers for hikers pay what you are asked for. If not asked for money pay anyway what you would get charged in similar occasions. Don't ruin the hiker's reputation by misusing the generosity of humble people. There are NO "Trail Angles" on the GPT.
- If you are caught by severe weather to may knock on doors and ask kindly for shelter. Helping in such situations is part of the ethics in the mountains. Don't enter locked *puestos* except in life-threatening emergencies. This is also for your safety since poorly ventilated and uninhabited buildings pose a Hanta virus infection risk. Some *puestos* are intentionally open or have an open part and a locked part. In this case you may utilize the open part if needed.

- Leave no trace and in particular no litter. All packings that can be carried with content must be returned empty. This applies also to toilet paper; carry or burry it. Do not follow the example some fellow hikers, *arrieros* and settlers that occasionally lack the consciousness to keep the land tidy. If feasible collect trash that you find on the trail and carry it to the next village or burry it.

If you read this Code of Conduct and consent with it note the Track File Unlock Code 3: 663252. This will be of the key to open the track files.

1.15 Terms and Conditions for Using the Hiker's Manual and the Track Files

I provide this Hiker's Manual and the GPT Track Files free of charge but not unconditionally. This document and the track files are proprietary and remain copyright protected material. Its usage comes with conditions. In order to download and use this material you must read and agree with these conditions.

1.15.1 Comply with the Code of Conduct

Condition 1 of 6: Comply with the above outlined Code of Conduct while being a Guest on the GPT. Do not assume that you have the right to walk all published routes of the GPT but do what is in your power to be a pleasant guest.

1.15.2 Use At Your Own Risk

Condition 2 of 6: The author does not make any warranties about the completeness, reliability and accuracy of this document and the related track files. Any action taken upon this information is strictly at your own risk. By using this documentation you agree that the author is not liable for any injuries, losses and damages in connection with the use of this information.

Comment: While investigating and hiking the Greater Patagonian Trail we learned about numerous people that died in bad weather or accidents on these trails or that simply disappeared without a trace; *arrieros*, indigenous people, settlers, tourists, soldiers. Some of these death are remembered with memorial stones or plaque that an attentive hiker can see along the trail. Of other death only memories are left and locals tell visitors to warn them. So, this trail network does not only provide unforgettable memories; this trail also takes lives.

The [tragedy of Antuco](#) 🌐 is one example. In 2005 a company of about 400 soldiers were ordered to march 20 km along a gravel road of section GPT09; 45 soldiers never made it to the finish and died in a snow storm. Just a few kilometers up the same road is the “Piedra del Indio”. When asking locals about the origin of this name we were told that some years ago two Pehuenche families were surprised by bad weather and seeked some protection at this boulder. Days later they were found death. When walking this road on a sunny day it appears hardly conceivable that at the very same spot someone froze to death but the memorials witness it.

During our recent investigation of GPT32 in the area of Lago Caro we were surprised by a search team. A local settler fell in a river while trying to get to his home on horseback. When we left the area the body was not found yet.

Before crossing Cordon Caulle on section GPT19 a settler told us about a girl that some years ago disappeared without a trace. The Cordon Caulle is a vast open volcanic field next to the volcano Puyehue that you can be crossed freely. But this plateau is surrounded by extremely dense Valdivian rain forest. Crossing this forest without a trail is an extremely demanding ordeal and you barely advance a few hundred meters per hour. It is assumed that this hiker got disoriented while trying to walk back down but did not find the trail in the forest. Stuck in this engulfing forest a disabling accident is enough to be never seen again.


So fatal accidents are not just a hypothetical hazard on these trails; they happen more frequently than you might assume. Therefore I outlined in [chapter 1.9 on page 124 numerous hazards and risks](#) that hikers of the GPT are exposed to. This listing is not exhaustive and the recommendations suggested to reduce the risk are not complete nor always applicable.

Condition can deteriorate quickly and the fact that a route was hiked or paddled safely in the past does not mean that this is safe in the future. Each hiker must constantly assess conditions himself and must not rely on this documentation or the track files for his safety.

If you accept this condition and assume sole responsibility for your endeavour record the Track File Unlock Code 4: 289669.

1.15.3 Respect the Copyright

Condition 3 of 6: You may view, copy, edit and print this document and the related track files for personal non-commercial use only. You must not republish this document and the related track files neither in parts nor completely. Both, non-commercial and commercial republications are not permitted without prior written consent by the author and copyright owner.

Comment: You are very welcome to share and publish your experience on this trail network. When you do so, please refer in your personal publication to this trail as the “Greater Patagonian Trail” or “GPT” and link to the [wikiexplora article](#)  for further information. I find most such blogs very useful and informative and even the most detailed Hiker's Manual does not replace the views and opinions of others. I draw myself a lot of lessons learned from such blogs and this Hiker's Manual would not be what it is now without the publications of others.

What is not permitted is republishing this Hiker's Manual and the GPT Track Files. I have published these documents for personal use only and not for redistribution by others. This Hiker's Manual and the trail GPT Track Files are proprietary material and the copyright remains with the author. With this condition I want to prevent that outdated versions remain in circulation and that this material is published in an inappropriate context. I.e. a republication without sufficiently emphasizing the [Code of Conduct](#) what may endanger the currently generally positive relationship between the residents along this trail and hiking guests.

If you accept and respect the copyright use the Track File Unlock Code 5: 371539.

1.15.4 Non-Commercial Use Only

Condition 4 of 6: This document and the related track files are made available for personal non-commercial use only. Any commercial use requires a prior written authorization by the author and copyright owner. The following are examples of a commercial use that require such a prior written consent:

- Fundraising while using the name “Greater Patagonian Trail”
- Using this document and the related trail files to create maps or guide books for sale or to organize guided commercial tours and for-profit expeditions

Comment: My objective with publishing the Greater Patagonian Trail is the protection and preservation of this land. At first someone might think that not publishing anything at all is the best safeguard but I came to the conclusion that a sustainable use is the most promising protection. If the current residents retreat and sell off their land there is a good chance that logging and mining companies take over especially if no concerned public is watching. Therefore, the future of this land is less at stake if the current residents can make a living with a combination of farming and sustainable tourism by living off the land without consuming the land.

But of course, a tourism hype can be damaging as well, in particular if it attracts people that don't make the effort to truly understand the nature of this trail network. Especially in this early stage of the development of this trail even an occasional inappropriate behavior by an individual hiker can cause lasting damage. It can upset land owners and cause distrust by settlers who may deny

the right-of-way to future hikers. The current development on the US long-distance trails is a warning.

Therefore, I opted for this cautious publication of this trail that stresses the fragility of this region and clearly outlines and explains the [Code of Conduct](#). To not get into a conflict of interests myself I decided to publish this material free of charge and not pursue a commercial use, neither by selling this Hiker's Manual nor the GPT track files nor by doing fundraising. This choice frees me to not maximize publicity and to also discourage potential visitors that might be unprepared or lack the appropriate attitude.

This should make it perceivable why I do not permit using my work and the name "Greater Patagonian Trail" for fundraising without my prior written consent:

- Fundraising naturally needs to start before the endeavor. This normally means that the fundraiser has little to no actual knowledge of the region and the route network when starting to promote. That this easily results in an improper presentation needs no further explanation.
- Fundraising naturally aims to maximize publicity. This requires a short and simple message that is often too short and too simple. This potentially attracts unprepared crowds in consequence.
- Fundraising needs a spectacular objective to be successful. Just "walking on the GPT" is too little for a successful campaign. It needs to be the first Thru-Hike ever or if this was already done, doing it faster. You name it. That such objectives do not fit to an informal route network should be comprehensible.

If you believe that you have a valid reason to use my work and the name "Greater Patagonian Trail" in a fundraising campaign than contact me FIRST. I'm not by principle against any fundraising. I actually support selected campaigns like www.her-

odyssey.org 🌐 of Bethany and Lauren. Both are very mindful hikers who became indispensable contributors and consultants for the GPT. What I strongly discourage is using the name “Greater Patagonian Trail” in a fundraising campaign without prior consultation and consent. Should you do it, don’t be surprised if I publish clarifying comments and inform sponsors about such an unauthorized use.

If you consider this condition inappropriate than I encourage you to develop your project it from start to finish yourself. Plan your route yourself, name it differently without plagiarizing the work of others and do it with preservation in mind. Google Earth is free of charge, Chile and Argentina are free countries.

Guided commercial tours and for-profit expeditions that cross private properties can quickly change the acceptance and the relationship with the land owners. Imagine a group of people crossing unasked a private property and the owner recognizes that someone is earning money with it. He will quickly try to get his share by demanding a “trail-toll”. If he is not interested in earning some extra cash than he may feel abused and may deny the right-of-way to all hikers in the future. Therefore, such commercial tours must be particular sensible and selective in choosing the appropriate area and route for their endeavor.


The same applies to hiking maps and guide books for sale. Only undisputed routes should be included in such a commercial publication as hikers will take such a map or book as evidence that they have the right-of-way and the privilege to be there. Clarifying the legal status of all these routes is a massive task as people along the trail make valid and inappropriate claims. It would need a team of lawyers that tediously check laws, land registers and land sales contracts for this vast region.

If you are committed to a non-commercial use only use the Track File Unlock Code 6: 911213.

1.15.5 Provide Feedback

Condition 5 of 6: By using this document and the related track files you commit yourself to provide a feedback to the hiked sections after completion of the hike. This feedback shall include a summary to each hiked section and a full GPS record of all hiked parts on the GPT.

As stated before the GPT is not a public trail and no agency or foundation cares for this trail network. Therefore, feedbacks of hikers are essential to keep the GPT documentation up to date and to inform other hikers about recent changes. Especially this early in the development with only few hikers each season a feedback from all hikers is relevant. See chapter [1.7.2.3 When being on the GPT: Contribute on page 65](#) for more information and detailed instructions.

You may provide your feedback either by sending an email directly to the author of this Hiker's Manual using the email gpt.jan.dudeck@gmail.com  or by posting your feedback on the [GPT Facebook Group page](#).

If you agree to provide such a written feedback and a full GPS record use the Track File Unlock Code 7: 123305.

Should you feel uncomfortable to create a full GPS record or if you prefer to protect your privacy by not sharing your GPS record than you are welcome to make a proposal how to contribute instead. There are many ways to support this trail project, people have diverse skills and every hiker is invited to collaborate with his abilities and competencies. Therefore, if you do not want to commit yourself to this condition provide an alternative proposal by email to the author BEFORE promising to provide a full GPS record.

1.15.6 Fair Use Notice

Condition 6 of 6: This document and the related trail files contain copyrighted material. The use of this material has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. Such material is made available in the believe that this constitutes a “fair use” of any such copyrighted material. This document and the related trail files are distributed without profit.

1.15.7 Access to the GPT Track Files

Should you agree to these Terms and Conditions send an email to gpt.jan.dudeck@gmail.com 🌐 that expresses your consent with all six Terms and Conditions and briefly outline your plans. I will than provide a link where you can download the track files. Read also chapter [3.2.2 Obtaining and Opening the Track Files on page 554](#) the describes how to apply Track File Unlock Codes to open the track files.

1.15.8 Plagiator Awards

1.15.8.1 Plagiator Award 2017 – Secret Compass

To be issued.

1.15.8.2 Plagiator Award 2016 – www.greaterpatagonia.com

To be issued.

1.15.9 Additional Remark to these Terms and Conditions

By publishing this trail network that partially leads over private properties I practically invited hikers to other people's homes. Please understand that this is an immense responsibility that I want to live up to. Therefore, I try what is in my power that this invitation does not get abused.

Also the recent development on other long-distance trails in particular in the US is a warning. A growing number of people use these trails and some believe they have special privileges because they i.e. attempt a thru-hike. This attitude is annoying on a public trail. On an informal route network that relies on the consent of the local population such an attitude can be destructive.

The GPT is a route network still in it's infancy. The fate and the future of this trail is in the hands of the hikers that walk it in the coming years.

2 Terrain and Section Information

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2.1 Diversity of Greater Patagonia and Hidden Treasures

There is **one common misconception** amongst travellers that plan a journey to Patagonia: **As more south as better**. I fell in this trap myself before exploring Greater Patagonia step by step. My imagination of Patagonia was shaped by a couple of iconic images, the fascination for geographic extremes and the successful marketing of a few hyped tourist hot-spots. And I regularly encounter this assumption when speaking to prospective hikers. There are indeed some amazing areas in the very south, but the hidden treasures wait further north; the regions that are bypassed by the main flux of tourists and this not because of lack of beauty but lack of advertisement.

So, my first advise before planning your route: Get rid of the idea that you must make it all the way south. Don't follow the crowds but avoid them. Don't get drawn to names you know but go for the unknown. Of course, this advise will not work for you if you travel to tick off popular "bucket lists" or if you want to show off by listing famous places you have seen. Traversing the *Maule* and the *Araucaria* region does not sound cool to the general public, but these are my hiking favourites between Santiago de Chile and the southern tip of Americas. So, my suggestion is: Take a fresh blank sheet of paper before choosing your route.

If you now expect me to provide you with my alternative Patagonia-Must-Do-List then I will disappoint you and I do this intentionally. Navigation on the GPT is challenging so is choosing your route. Take your time to read about the geography of the Southern Cone first and then sample the various sub-regions to understand the distinct characters and features of these areas. And from this eagle perspective I will help you to choose your individual route yourself. This will enable you to **select what is appropriate for you and to explore the diversity of Greater Patagonia**.

2.1.1 Diversity of Greater Patagonia: East to West

Patagonia consists of surprisingly disparate zones. There are vast open plains in the east of Patagonia with a dry and wind battered steppe that spans from the eastern edge of the Andes to the Atlantic coast. The western part of Patagonia, due to the rain shadow caused by the Andes, is in some regards the opposite. In the west you have the rugged and rainy Pacific coast with countless fjords and islands. An impenetrable forest covers most of this land to the west of the Andes. And in between these two unlike areas – in between the dry plains in the east and the humid fjords in the west - tower the Patagonian Andes. Dormant and recently active volcanoes rise into the sky and glaciers cover all higher summits. During previous glacial periods these glaciers grew to a formidable size and carved deep wide valleys into the Patagonian Andes. These valleys are now partly filled by lakes and get drained by powerful rivers. All this is Patagonia and this diversity creates the mystery and magic of this region.

The Greater Patagonian Trail snakes mostly through the southern Andes but also diverts to the west into the Patagonian fjords and descends in to east where the vast plains and the Patagonian steppe begins. Therefore you can sample the full variety of Patagonia when walking the length of the GPT.



Picture 94: Satellite Image of Patagonia. Image: Wikipedia/NASA

2.1.2 Diversity of Greater Patagonia: North to South

2.1.2.1 From Santiago to latitude 35° S (Sections GPT01 to GPT04)

In the northern part of the trail the Andes are very high with some summits exceeding 6000 m. Here passes typically exceed 4000 m altitude and steep rocky terrain and glaciers impede walking along the main mountain chain close to the continental divide which also forms the border between Chile and Argentina. Therefore here trail is not in the heart of the Andes but climbs through the *Precordillera* (foothills) mainly along the first mountain range next to the Chilean Central Valley. But don't misunderstand *Precordillera* or foothills as low; here the regular route reaches the highest point with 3300 m.

To an altitude of approximately 1500 m to 2000 m you find a semi-desert-like vegetation; above this altitude vegetation is scarce. In summer expect a generally hot and dry climate but be prepared for chilly nights higher up. When starting early in the hiking season (November and December) expect large snow fields in higher areas especially after a snow-rich winter. And when getting there late in the hiking season heavy blizzards become a serious hazard (April and May).

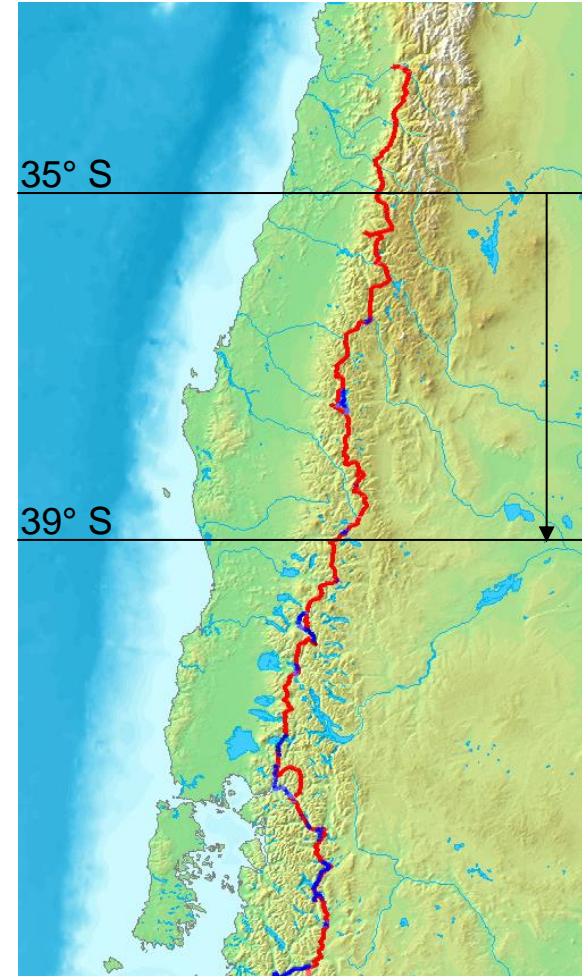


Picture 95: GPT Regular Route
Image: GPSVisualizer.com

2.1.2.2 From latitude 35° S to 39° S (Sections GPT05 to GPT12)

South of Curicó the Andes drop in altitude but remain a continuous high mountain range. Summits rarely exceed 4000 m but most passes are still above 2000 m. Here the Andes are much more suitable for hiking. Therefore the Main Route leaves the *Precordillera* and enters the heart of the Andes close to the continental divide. Here the continental divide constitutes the border between Chile and Argentina so the trail is mostly close to the international limit but remains on the Chilean side.

In this area a large number of route options provide many hiking choices. You can often opt between lower trails and higher more demanding routes that get you in very remote areas of the Andes. Climate during summer is often quite hot and dry but provides sufficient precipitation to maintain a relatively open forest in the valleys. In spring while the snow is melting torrential rivers make this area nearly impassable for hikers.



Picture 96: GPT Regular Route
Image: GPSVisualizer.com

2.1.2.3 South of latitude 39° S (Sections GPT13 to GPT92)

South of Temuco you do not find any more a continuous high mountain chain. Numerous valleys and depressions break partly deep breaches into the main mountains range creating natural low passes between Chile and Argentina. These depressions and valleys were created by immense glaciers during past ice ages and remain partly filled by lakes. Many of these breaches are lower than 1000 m, some are just 200 m above sea level.

These deep gaps in the *cordillera* (mountain range) shift the continental divide in some areas far to the east and cause a partly significant offset between the main mountain range and the continent divide. This offset was one reason for more than a century of border disputes between Chile and Argentina that are still not fully resolved.

The mountains of the Patagonian Andes are like large islands that are separated by these "channels" of lowland. The higher summits reach mostly an altitude of 2000 to 3000 m. Only few peaks exceed the 3000 m mark. Below the tree line frequent rain maintains a very dense, nearly impenetrable, forest that is also called Valdivian temperate rain forest. Due to this geography the GPT goes up and down between the depressions and the island-like mountains and provides a very attractive and varied hiking at least to the finish of section GPT22.

Here having a packraft becomes very beneficial, in particular from section GPT17P to GPT39 where you can use your inflatable boat on more than 40% of the distance.



Picture 97: GPT Regular Route
Image: GPSVisualizer.com

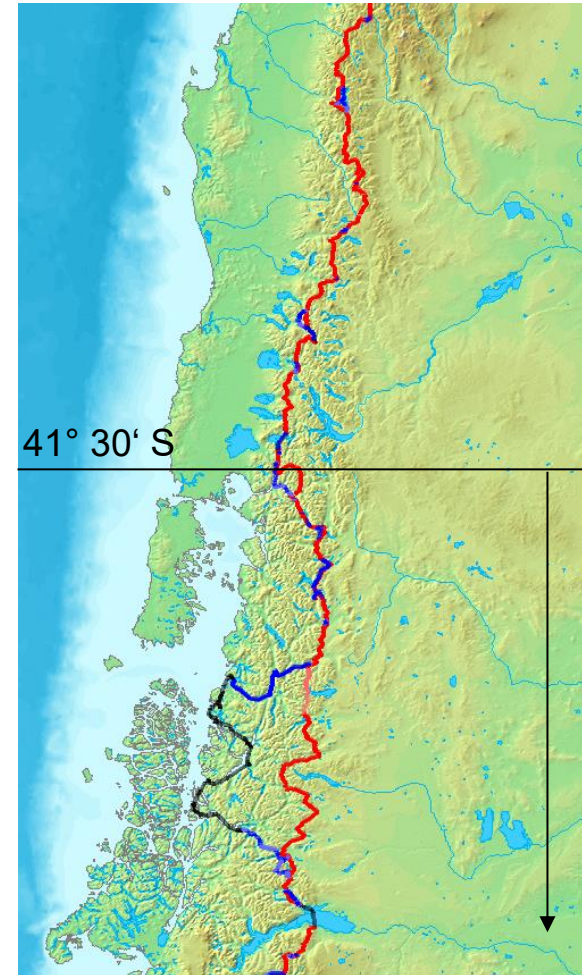
2.1.2.4 South of latitude 41° 30' S (Sections GPT22 to GPT92)

South of Puerto Montt the Chilean Central Valley "sinks" below sea level and the Patagonian fjords begin. These fjords and channels form a vast network of waterways with countless islands and peninsulas. In this rugged region hardly any road or trail was built along the coast. The mountains rise directly out of the sea and rarely leave sufficient suitable space for a land connection and the impenetrable tempered rain forest amplifies this challenge.

In this region of Chile even the most important road; the *Carretera Austral*; has a 50 km wide gap that can only be crossed by ferry. There is not even a horse trail or a foot path that bridges this gap; just impenetrable dense forest and cragged mountains. Here most land routes are further inland in the valleys and depressions that cut through the Patagonian Andes. Due to this geography the GPT Main Route crosses on section GPT22 into Argentina and does not return to Chile until section GPT26.

In Central Patagonia in particular from GPT28H to GPT31H hiking is less attractive because several historic horse trails have been upgraded to dirt roads. But packrafting this area is epic. Here you can paddle over crystal clear lakes and float down mostly calm rivers with impressive mountains on either side of your packraft until reaching on these rivers the Patagonian fjords.

Packrafters may choose from the sections GPT70P to GPT78P to float down to the Pacific and explore these fjords.



Picture 98: GPT Regular Route
Image: GPSVisualizer.com

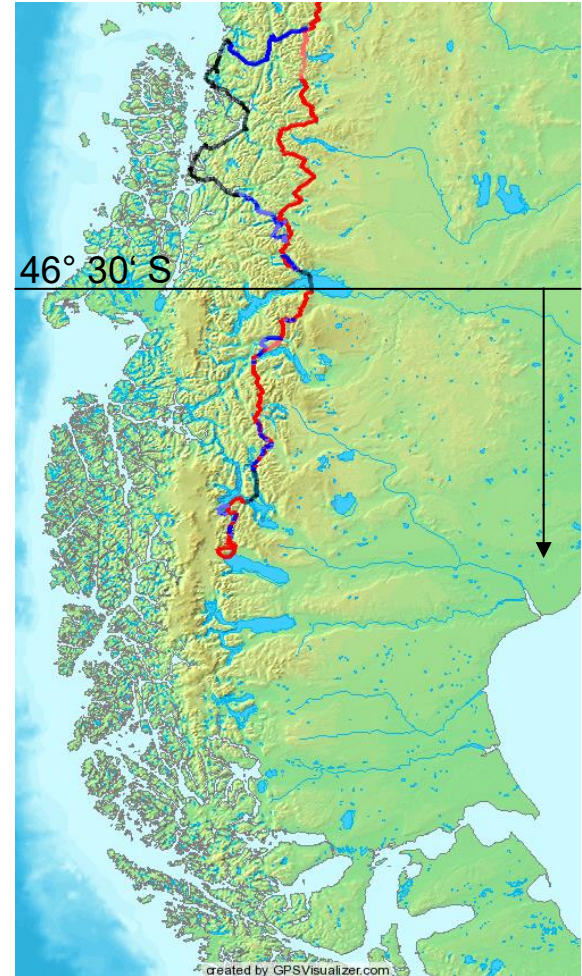
2.1.2.5 South of latitude 46° 30' S (GPT35 to GPT69P & GPT80P to GPT92P)

At the latitude of Lago General Carrera and south of it are two large ice fields, the Northern Patagonian Ice Field and the Southern Patagonian Ice Fields. Here ice completely fills the depressions between the island-like mountains to an altitude of about 1500 m. These are the two remnant parts of the much larger Patagonian Ice Sheet that covered most of Patagonia during previous ice ages.

In this area the Main Route of the GPT guides you through the mountains about 100 km east of the Northern Patagonian Ice Field and in particular packrafters have multiple options to vary the route. Here in the South the weather is volatile and distances between settlements are substantial making this region more challenging.

Towards the current southern terminus of the GPT Main Route you reach the eastern edge of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field what makes an impressive finish. From GPT38 to GPT40 you can walk and paddle through a rough wind battered land full of milky glacier lakes that get constantly refilled by immense streams of ice that flows from the Southern Patagonian Ice Field.

For expert packrafters with the skills and the appetite for challenging adventures I have added sections GPT80P to GPT92P with demanding expedition routes around the Northern Patagonian Ice Field.



Picture 99: GPT Regular Route
Image: GPSVisualizer.com

2.2 Section Groups

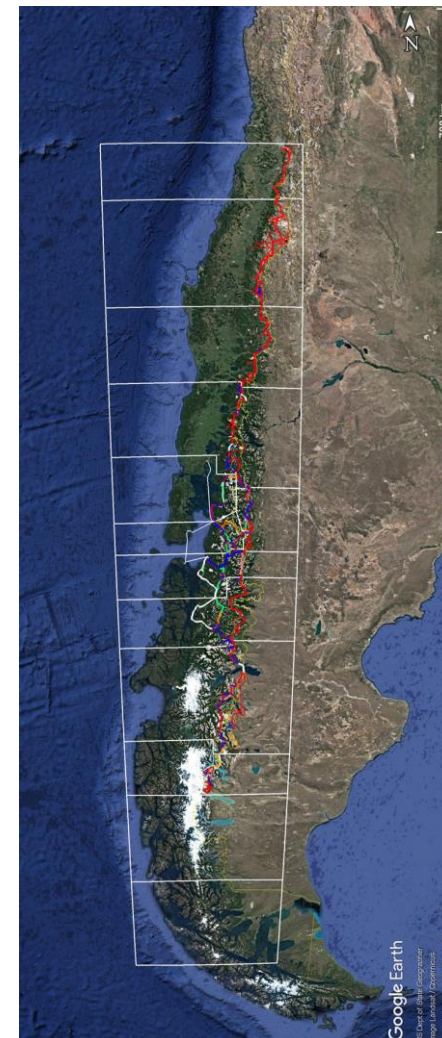
To better distinguish between the diverse areas along the GPT I divided Greater Patagonia into sub-regions that bundle the approximately 90 sections²⁹ into 17 sections groups or super-sections. Each section group combines 3 to 9 sections with a similar character for which often the same recommendations apply. This shall facilitate an educated pre-selection of areas of interest.

The currently 40 sections of the Main Route (Sections GPT01 to GPT40) are divided into 9 groups (Groups A to I). Further 8 groups cover other areas i.e. the future southern extension (Groups J to L) that still needs to be planned in detail or the fascinating packrafting routes west to the Main Route: the Packrafting Specials (Groups M to P).

Each section group is named after the dominating culture, a geographic feature or the region name. To avoid confusion with the section numbers a letter is given to each section group and not a number.

These section groups are relevant when starting to plan an adventure on the GPT to make a wise choice of the areas that are appealing and appropriate for you. Once the pre-selection is made these section groups become less relevant because at this point you will start working with the actual sections. So, do not spend too much effort in memorize these section groups but study this chapter [2.2](#)

²⁹ [Read the explanation to section](#) on page 25 in chapter 1.3 The GPT Route Network.



Picture 100: Section Groups

Section Groups and the following chapter [2.3 Choosing Your Route](#) to narrow your choice.

To maintain the readability of this document only shorter one-page tables are placed into this chapter. All longer tables i.e. detailed information to all 90 sections that extend over multiple pages are in chapter [3 Appendix and Indices](#). Links in this chapter lead to these detailed overviews in the appendix. Follow these links to dive into specific topics when planning your hike in detail i.e. overviews with numerical information to all sections.

The following colour codes are used in various tables of this document:

Table Colour Codes				
Hiking	Packrafting	Normally Feasible	Caution, Conditionally	Not Recommended
Earth Colour like soil	Blue like water	Traffic light Green	Traffic light Yellow	Traffic light Red

Table 6: Table Colour Codes

The line width and the line colours on the satellite images are outlined in the following table:

Satellite Image Line Codes	
Wide Line	Regular route. This is the normally recommended route.
Thin Lines	Optional route. These are alternative routes that are either more demanding or less attractive than the regular route.
Yellow Lines	International border between Chile and Argentina.
	YELLOW

Satellite Image Line Codes	
Hiking Routes on Land	Land routes for hikers and packrafters. RED (Hiking)
Hiking Investigation Routes on Land	Investigation land routes for hikers and packrafters that lack a precise GPS record but that are confirmed to exist and expected to be traversable. RED (Hiking) & WHITE (Investigation) = ROSE
Ferry and Boat Transfers	Ferries and boat transfers for hikers and packrafters. WHITE (Ferry)
Packrafting Routes on Land	Land routes only for packrafters (land access routes to water routes). RED (Hiking) & BLUE (Packrafting) = VIOLET
Packrafting Investigation Routes on Land	Investigation land routes for packrafters only that lack a precise GPS record but that are confirmed to exist and should be traversable. RED (Hiking) & BLUE (Packrafting) & WHITE (Investigation) = LIGHT VIOLET
Packrafting Routes on Water	Water routes for packrafters (rivers, lakes, fjords). BLUE (Packrafting)
Exploration Routes on Land	Verified exploration land route with a precise GPS record but the uncertainty if a full traverse of the entire section is feasible. One colour for hiking and packrafting. RED (Hiking) & YELLOW (Exploration) = ORANGE
Exploration Investigation Routes on Land	Investigation exploration land route without a precise GPS record and the uncertainty if a traverse is feasible. One colour for hiking and packrafting routes. RED (Hiking) & YELLOW (Exploration) & WHITE (Investigation) = LIGHT ORANGE
Exploration Packrafting Routes on Water	Exploration water route that is expected to be particularly demanding. BLUE (Packrafting) & YELLOW (Exploration) = GREEN

Table 7: Satellite Image Line Codes

For further information to the route types and the route display see chapter [3.2.10 Track Display in Google Earth and on the GPS on page 588](#). If the terminology in the following tables to each section group remains unclear follow the links below:

Sections: [See the section definition on page 27](#).

Planning Status: See chapter [2.3.6 Planning Status on page 234](#).

Best Travel Method, Benefit of Packraft and Recommendation for a **Single-Season Hike**: See chapter [2.3.7 Hiking and Packrafting Suggestions on page 236](#).

Travel Direction: See chapter [2.3.8 Preferable Travel Direction on page 238](#).

2.2.1 Group A: Precordillera | GPT01 - GPT04

Section Group A consists of the first four sections (GPT01 to GPT04) which are noted for the long climbs and exposed nature. They quickly afford a vast sense of wilderness and elevation even so near to the giant metropolis of Santiago de Chile. You will also hike through the area of the El Teniente mine, the largest underground copper mine in the world. Fascinating to observe but important to keep distance to not interfere with the work. Expect to be questioned by guards, though you do have the right-of-way if you stay outside of the mining area.

About two third of the route consists of trails, animal paths and cross-country walking where you will meet *arrieros* with cattle, goats and horses. In the lower areas closer to the towns, the trails see more frequent human use as hiking paths. Private campgrounds near towns see high use by town people that escape the cities especially on weekends and during the vacation period (January and February).

About one third of the distance need to be walked on roads. Some of the roads are non-public mine access roads that are well maintained, see daily use by workers who are generally respectful if diligent about their work.

Highlights are the sweeping views of the Andes, astounding rock colors, mineral deposits from the rivers, small lush drainages tucked into the folds of the mountains with water and beautiful flowers, and snow fields lasting late in the season. These sections

Group A: Precordillera		
Sections	From GPT01 to GPT04	
Planning Status	Published & Verified	
Best Travel Method	Hiking	
Benefit of Packraft	Only Burden	
Adjacent Groups	Group B: Arrieros	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	Consider	No
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comments: -		

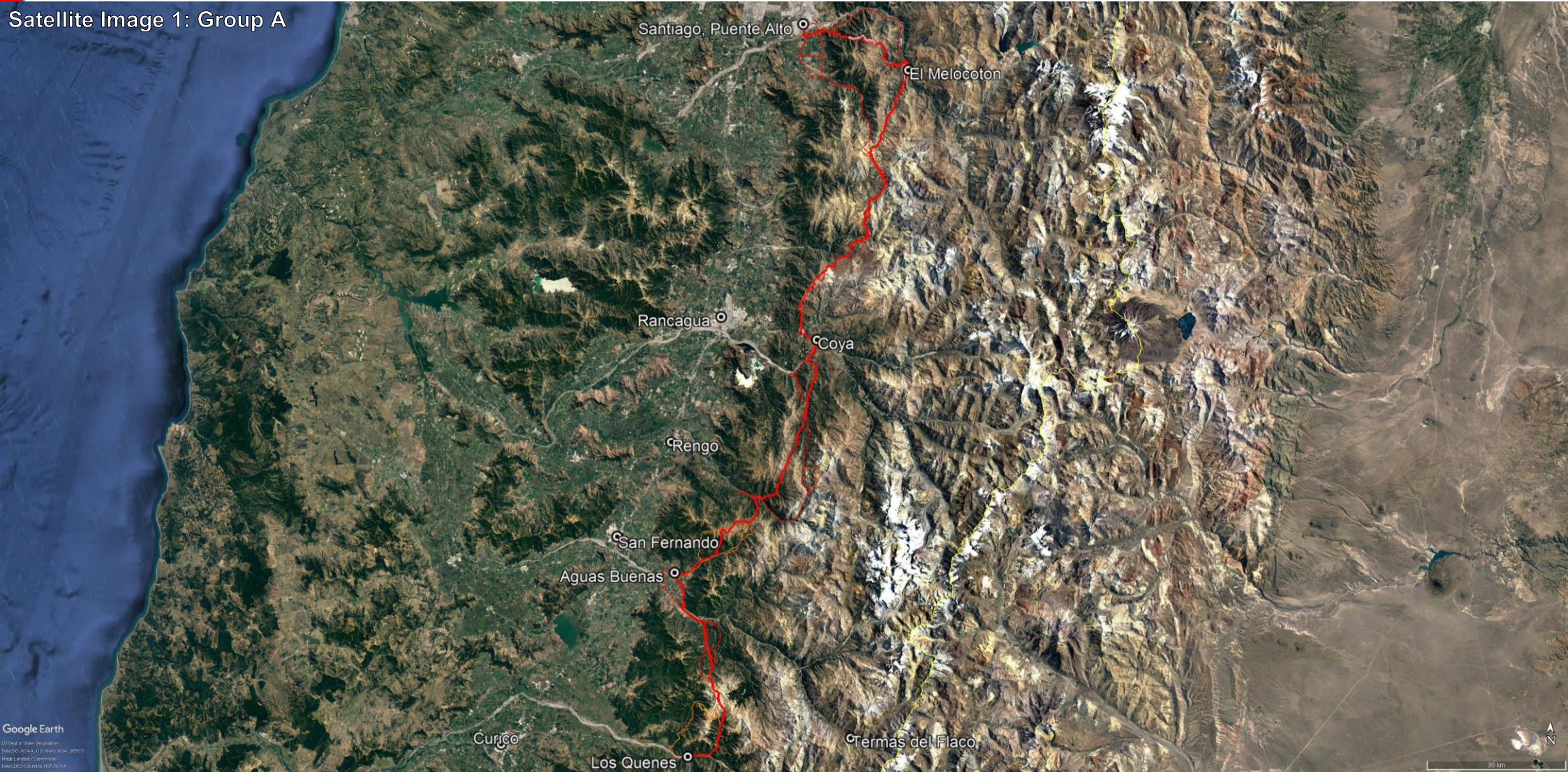
Table 8: Section Group A Summary

create the biggest contrast to the icefields in southern Patagonia. If starting here you will fully experience the transformation of the landscape from semi-desert mountains into a sub-polar territory.

When you start early in the hiking season you may encounter large snow fields and difficult river crossings along the route. During the summer high temperatures and a merciless sun may squeeze the sweat out of you. But due to the partially high elevation you need to be prepared to withstand strong wind, heavy rain and even hail and snow if a *temporal* (thunderstorm storm or period of bad weather) surprises you high up.

On these sections a packraft cannot be used at all therefore carrying this equipment would be foolish.

Satellite Image 1: Group A



2.2.2 Group B: Arrieros | GPT05 - GPT09

On the second section group from GPT05 to GPT09 the *campo* culture and *arriero* lifestyle is strongly felt. Generally clear trails follow up and down many passes, though the trails tend to become indistinct or disappear in terrain where animals can graze and roam freely. In this group you constantly move between temperate valleys and windy, exposed highs. The route is mostly in open terrain and only along the few lower valleys you can enjoy the shade of a forest.

A major challenge of this group are the river crossings which can be impassable in particular in spring during the snow melt and after a rare but heavy summer rain. Only few bridges eliminate the need to ford these rivers and improvised bridge are sometimes flushed away.

Some of the highlights of this section group are:

- the terrain around the Volcano Descabezado with endless pumice and lava fields and various optional summit routes,
- the Laguna del Maule which is the giant caldera of a dormant super volcano,
- the Laguna Dial, a lake that formed when a volcanic eruption created a lava dam,
- the ridge above Laguna de Las Lajas, also a lake that formed when a volcano blocked a river valley,

Group B: Arrieros		
Sections	From GPT05 to GPT09	
Planning Status	Published & Verified	
Best Travel Method	Hiking	
Benefit of Packraft	Deployable	
Adjacent Groups	Group A: Precordillera Group C: Pehuenche	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	Recommended	Consider
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑ (1)	Both ↓↑ (1)
Comments: (1) For northbound travel an entry permit to the hydro-power station "Los Cypresses" is required.		

Table 9: Section Group B Summary

- the Volcan Antuco,
- and several hot springs that are both, left natural and cultivated.

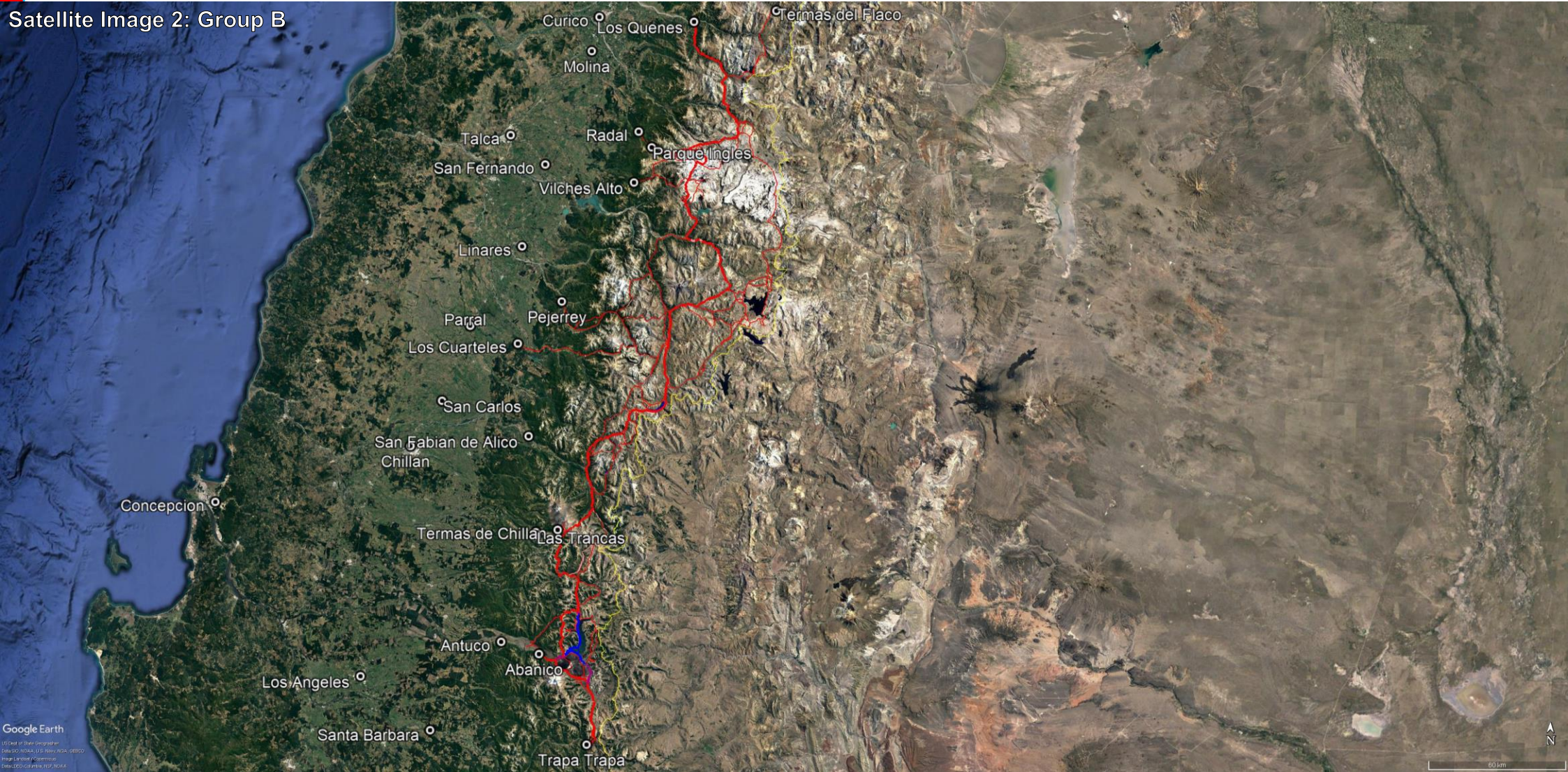
You will see many *arrieros* living outdoors with their animals at the high summer grazing grounds during the *veranero* season. Another highlight are the unique swimming holes which exist alongside the trail in the crystal clear refreshing rivers. You will love them during the sometimes unbearable afternoon heat.

In this section group you find the most hiking options that can literally get you into the last valley and over the last mountain ridge next to the border to Argentina. If you love to explore than this is your sub-region to go.

Here you also have the first opportunities to inflate a packraft and paddle over impressive mountains lakes. For a full traverse the extra weight of the packraft gear will probably not pay off but if you come to explore a specific area i.e. the Laguna de Las Lajas and its surroundings than this is an option to consider.

You are suggested to obtain permission to pass through the hydropower station Los Cipreses on section GPT06 or you may be escorted off property if hiking southbound. The permit is essential for hiking northbound and relatively easy to obtain with proper advanced notice and due diligence.

Satellite Image 2: Group B



2.2.3 Group C: Pehuenche | GPT10 - GPT16

On the third section group from GPT10 to GPT16 you traverse a distinctly indigenous sub-region: the homeland of the *Pehuenche*. This native community is often considered part of the *Mapuche* nation that maintained their independence until late into the 19th century. They are normally very kind and can be curious but also tend to be reserved and cautious with any outsider.

They live in villages in the mountain valleys but also move up on higher grazing grounds during the summer very much like the *arrieros* do. But in contrast to the *arrieros* you will meet more women and entire families, sometimes three generations living together in small summer shelters. Some milk their cows and make cheese. In summer and autumn they harvest the *piñones* of the *Araucaria* tree what is the staple food of their traditional diet. Once you discover how to collect and prepare these seeds you will have an unlimited food supply along the trail provided that you scheduled the traverse of this area to match the harvest season.

These *Araucaria* trees are one defining element of this landscape and a highlight of this sub-region. Areas where old growth trees have been preserved create and impressive scenery. If then a large band of squawking parrots crosses your path you may feel like in mystery forest.

Group C: Pehuenche		
Sections	From GPT10 to GPT16	
Planning Status	Published & Verified	
Best Travel Method	Hiking	
Benefit of Packraft	Deployable	
Adjacent Groups	Group B: Arrieros Group D: Lagos Chilenos	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	Recommended	Consider
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comments: -		

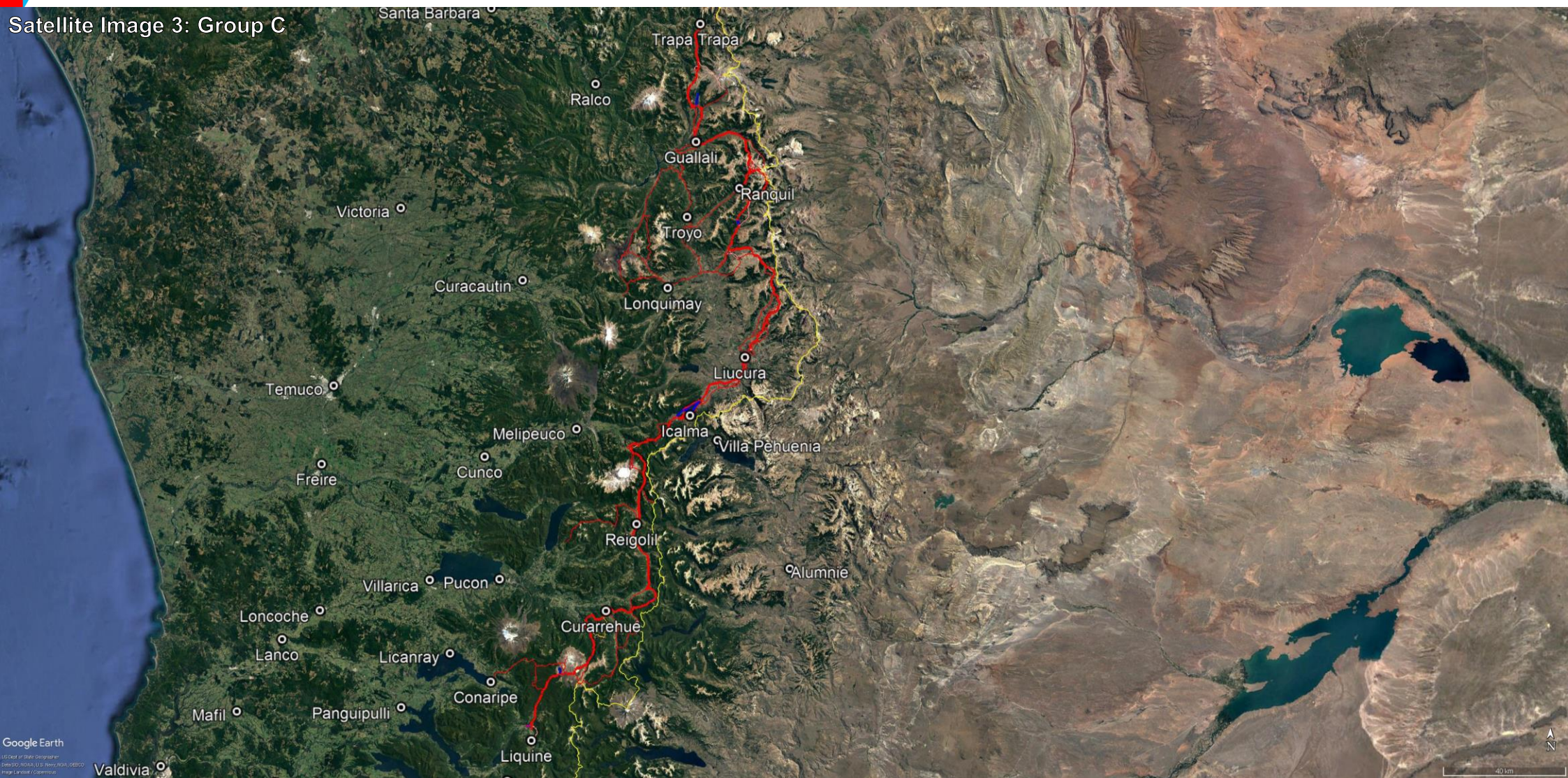
Table 10: Section Group C Summary

Volcanos are the other defining element with some being quite active. So don't be surprised if you see clouds of dark smoke rising into the sky. The soil you are walking on is mainly volcanic ash from past eruptions reminding you of the powers that you are surrounded by.

While you move through the homeland of the *Pehuenche* you will notice a gradual change of the flora. In the north the forest is rather open with large treeless areas in between, often the result of fire clearing. As you move south the annual precipitation increases and so does the vegetation. When going southbound you will leave this unique sub-region while walking through lush dense forest.

In this section group the extra weight of the packraft gear will not pay off except you except you come specifically to visit the few lakes.

Satellite Image 3: Group C



2.2.4 Group D: Lagos Chilenos | GPT17 - GPT22

This section group has two very different faces. The majority of the trail dives though the twilight of lush green tempered rainforest with some remaining old growth forests. The dense forest tears open along the clear cold rivers that constantly refill deep blue lakes and the renowned Patagonian fjords.

The other so different face of this group is the volcanic lunar landscape. Two extended volcanic areas rise out of the rainforest with the last major eruption occurring in 2011. The trail climbs up and out of the rainforest to traverse wide fields of grey ash and snake around massive streams of black lava boulders. You can summit the volcanos and stare from the rim into a wide-open crater. The contrast between the engulfing forest and the hostile volcanic terrain is mind-blowing.

With this sub-region the packraft dreamland begins. You can cover about a third of the distance on water floating down calm river, crossing immense lakes and even paddling in the Patagonian fjords.

In this group the climate cools considerably and rain become more frequent. But where the trail remains in the forest you are less exposed than further north. Only the two volcano crossings get you high up in open terrain where condition can turn hostile even in mid-summer if you are hit by bad weather.

Group D: Lagos Chilenos		
Sections	From GPT17H/GPT17P to GPT22	
Planning Status	Published & Verified	
Best Travel Method	Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Very Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group C: Pehuenche Group E: Lagos Argentinos Group N: Costa	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	Recommended	Recommended
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑ (2)
Comments: (2) Depending on the direction of travel different rivers may be partially packrafted.		

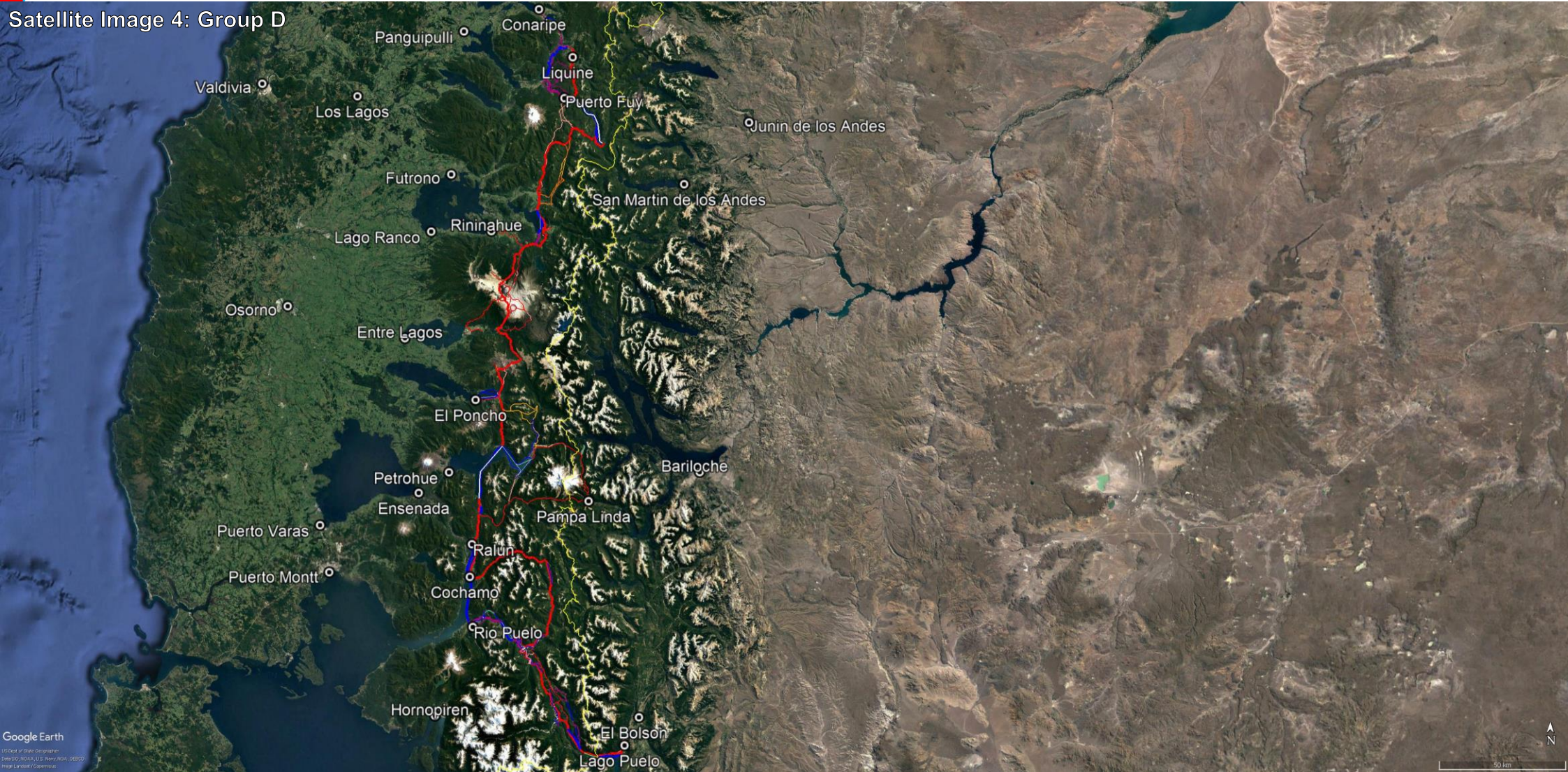
Table 11: Section Group D Summary

Trail maintenance varies throughout this sub-region. In parts you have well maintained forest roads; then you walk on frequently used horse trails but in some spots you need to fight your way through overgrown terrain because old trails have been abandoned.

Crossing through the “private for profit natural reserve” Huilo-Huilo on section GPT18 can be complicated by private guards.

Without a packraft you need to organize a private boat transfer over the Lago Todos Los Santos with one of the settlers on the trail. The border crossing from Chile into Argentina on the southern end of this sub-region is uncomplicated if you walk into the two police stations on either side of the border to get the obligatory passport stamps.

Satellite Image 4: Group D



2.2.5 Group E: Lagos Argentinos | GPT23 - GPT26

Chile and Argentina are like two brothers that share a lot but have some distinct differences in appearance and attitude. The relation between both countries is pretty much like between siblings; they can stand together and feel strong family ties but there is also some sibling rivalry, just like two little boys that quietly play together in the sandbox and a moment later they scream and fight over one toy that both grabbed at the same time. This sub-region is your opportunity to get to know the other brother. You can explore the difference of the Argentine culture and way of life i.e. by visiting the hippie town of El Bolsón at the end of section GPT22 and the start of GPT23.

The hiking route of this sub-region borders numerous pristine lakes and rivers and crosses forest and patches of cattle grazing land. The route passes two national parks and several large private properties (*estancias*). You can enjoy many gorgeous views and some sections of this group are generally easy walking. Here the GPT follows in large parts the Huella Andina, a trail project initiated by Estefania Chereguini and Walter Oszust. This project unfortunately came to a halt when the Argentine Ministry of Tourism assumed control and forced the founders out. This and recent wild fires mean that parts of the trail are no longer maintained and become overgrown.

Group E: Lagos Argentinos		
Sections	From GPT23 to GPT26	
Planning Status	Published & Verified	
Best Travel Method	Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Very Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group D: Lagos Chilenos Group F: Palena Group M: Yelcho	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	Consider	Recommended
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Only ↓ (3)
Comments: (3) Due to the flow direction of the incorporated rivers only southbound travel is feasible.		

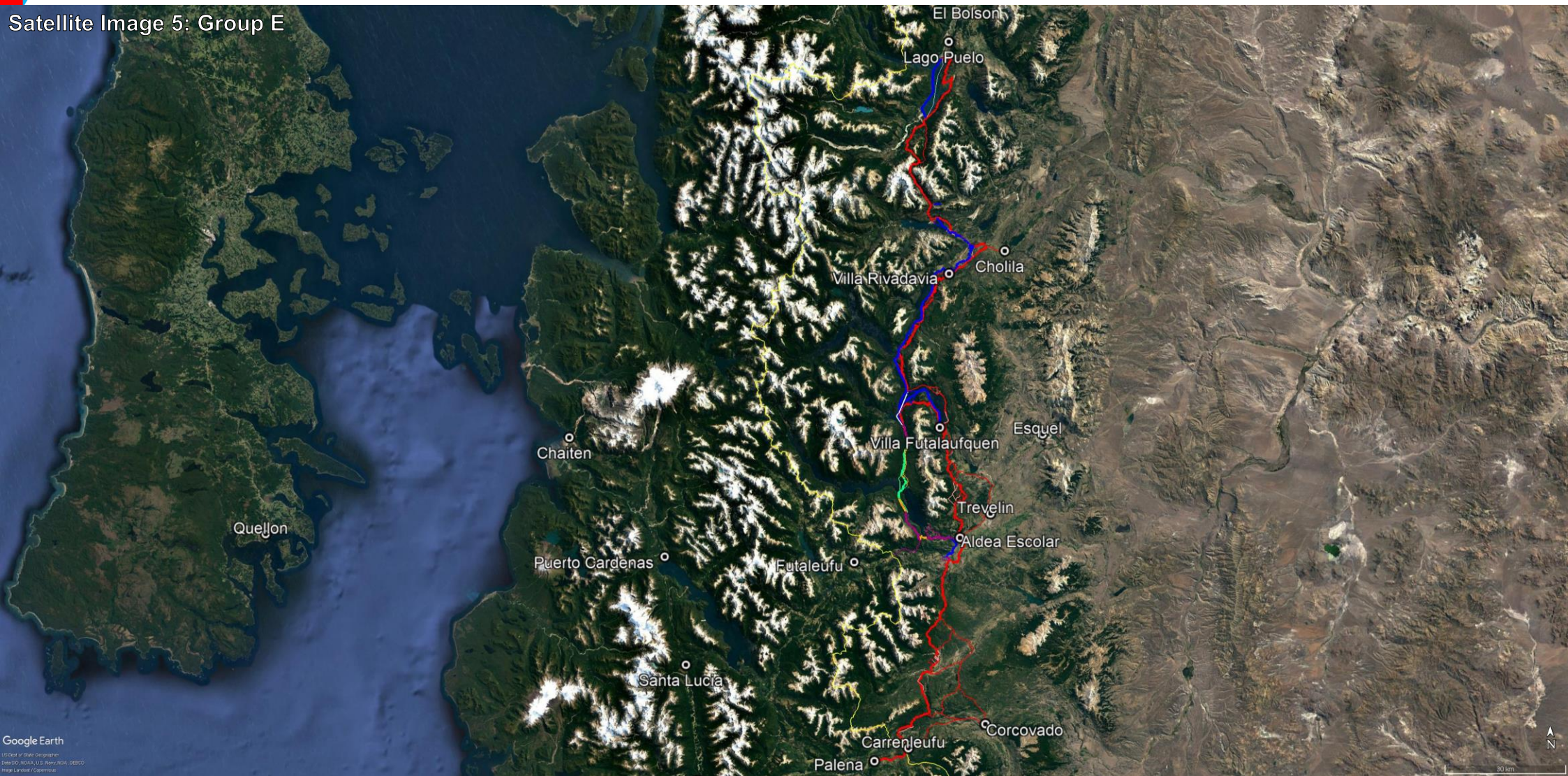
Table 12: Section Group F Summary

A very challenging but fascinating highlight of this sub-region is the traverse from Lago Puelo to Lago Cholila that contains some demanding bush bashing and walking in rivers to avoid the dense vegetation. Here you can test what it takes to walk without a trail though partly engulfing forest. This experience may reconcile you with the larger proportion of road walking that is unavoidable if hiking and not packrafting.

With this group the packraft dreamland continues. The distance on water exceeds 40%. In particular from Lago Cholila to Lago Kruger you have a long continuous water route of interconnecting lakes and rivers where you don't need to leave the water for 3 or 4 days except to rest and to camp.

In this group rain is rare but heat can be a burden since the trail snakes along of the eastern edge of the Andes in the rain shadow. Expect to climb over many fences and closed gates since the more leveled ground on the eastern edge of the Andes is used as grazing land for large herds of cattle. In the National Park "Los Alerces" you will meet large crowds on the camp sites but a short stroll from these tourist hot-spots you will encounter much less people. On the southern terminus of this section group you return to Chile on a paved road where collecting your passport stamps is straightforward.

Satellite Image 5: Group E



2.2.6 Group F: Palena | GPT27 - GPT30

In the sub-region Palena the hiking and the packrafting route divide and follow completely different bearings. The hiking route goes south while the packraft route takes you to the west to the Patagonian fjords and the Pacific Ocean.

If hiking you follow historic horse trails and quiet back roads that traverse a thickly forested region. A major trail section are *Rutas Patrimoniales* (national heritage trails) that are beautiful hiking, with a wonderful perspective of history. The wide river valleys are lovely as are the views when you can see through the trees. Sparsely populated, it gives an idea of the hardy and kind people who inhabit Patagonia.

If hiking be aware that parts of the route receive little to no maintenance. Also, a part of the hiking route is not yet recorded by GPS. Both makes this sub-region a route-finding challenge for hikers. Some river crossings of the hiking route can be impassable till the beginning of the summer or after heavy rain. This should be considered when timing your adventure and calculating your food rations.

For packrafters this sub-region is an unmatched highlight of the GPT. Just two kilometers after leaving the village Palena the packraft can be inflated and put into the generally calm river Palena. From there it is 4 to 6-day float until reaching the Fjord

Group F: Palena		
Sections	GPT27H, GPT27P, GPT28P, GPT30P	
Planning Status	Published & Verified	
Best Travel Method	Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Very Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group E: Lagos Argentinos Group G: Aysen (Norte) Group M: Yelcho	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	Consider	Recommended
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Only ↓ (3)
Comments: (3) Due to the flow direction of the incorporated rivers only southbound travel is feasible.		

Table 13: Section Group F Summary

Pitipalena and the tiny harbor village Raul Marin Balmaceda. Don't try to be fast to enjoy the scenery. Also leave the river to meet some of the families that live for three or four generations on the shore of this powerful but unhurried river.

From Raul Marin Balmaceda you best take the ferry to Puerto Chacabuco. With favorable weather this becomes a very scenic boat ride through the Patagonian fjords. On the way, the ferry stops at various tiny settlements where you might leave the ship to do some challenging exploration tours by packraft in the fjords.

During snow melt in spring and after periods of heavy rain the river level rises and the water flow accelerates making packrafting this river more demanding and dangerous. The few rapids can normally be scouted and portaged if needed but your constant attention is needed to evade the countless sunken trees that lurk under the water. Towards the Pacific Ocean the river valley widens exposing you to sometimes heavy head wind and when you reach the intertidal zone the flow direction inverse twice per day for several hours. So understand the tidal cycles and get tidal charts to better anticipate when to paddle and when to wait. When choosing your last camp site make sure that you do not pitch your tent in the intertidal zone. Otherwise you may suddenly wake up in a rising river.

Satellite Image 6: Group F



2.2.7 Group G: Aysen (Norte) | GPT28 - GPT31

In the sub-region Aysen (Norte) the hiking and the packrafting routes remain divided and rejoin at the southern end of this section group. The hiking route is located further to the east partly at the edge of the Andes where the arid Patagonian pampa begins. The packrafting route is further to the west and crosses the main mountain range of the Andes along deep mostly wide valleys.

The hiking route largely follows an array of roads, from impassible by vehicle to main thoroughfares and is easy walking. A few notable peaks can be viewed along the way and water is ample. The few villages are safe, simple, and kind.

Most of the landscape along the hiking route was transformed by fire clearings in the 20th century to create grazing land. In some areas these fire scares are covered by newly grown forest, others remaining pastures but you will also spot the effects of erosion the followed the fires. Only occasionally you walk through old growth forests. Coyhaique is the largest city directly on GPT and has several outdoor shops, which, while overpriced, can help in a pinch. This is also the center for “Patagonia Sin Represas” so if you have a chance, stop by!

Since the hiking route consists to about 90% of minor and primary roads I don’t recommend traversing this sub-region on foot

Group G: Aysen (Norte)		
Sections	GPT28H, GPT29H, GPT29P, GPT30H, GPT31H, GPT31P	
Planning Status	Published & Verified	
Best Travel Method	Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Very Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group F: Palena Group H: Aysen (Sur)	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	No	Recommended
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Preferable ↓ (4)
Comments: (4) Recommendation based on predominant wind direction on lakes and the flow direction of the majority of incorporated rivers.		

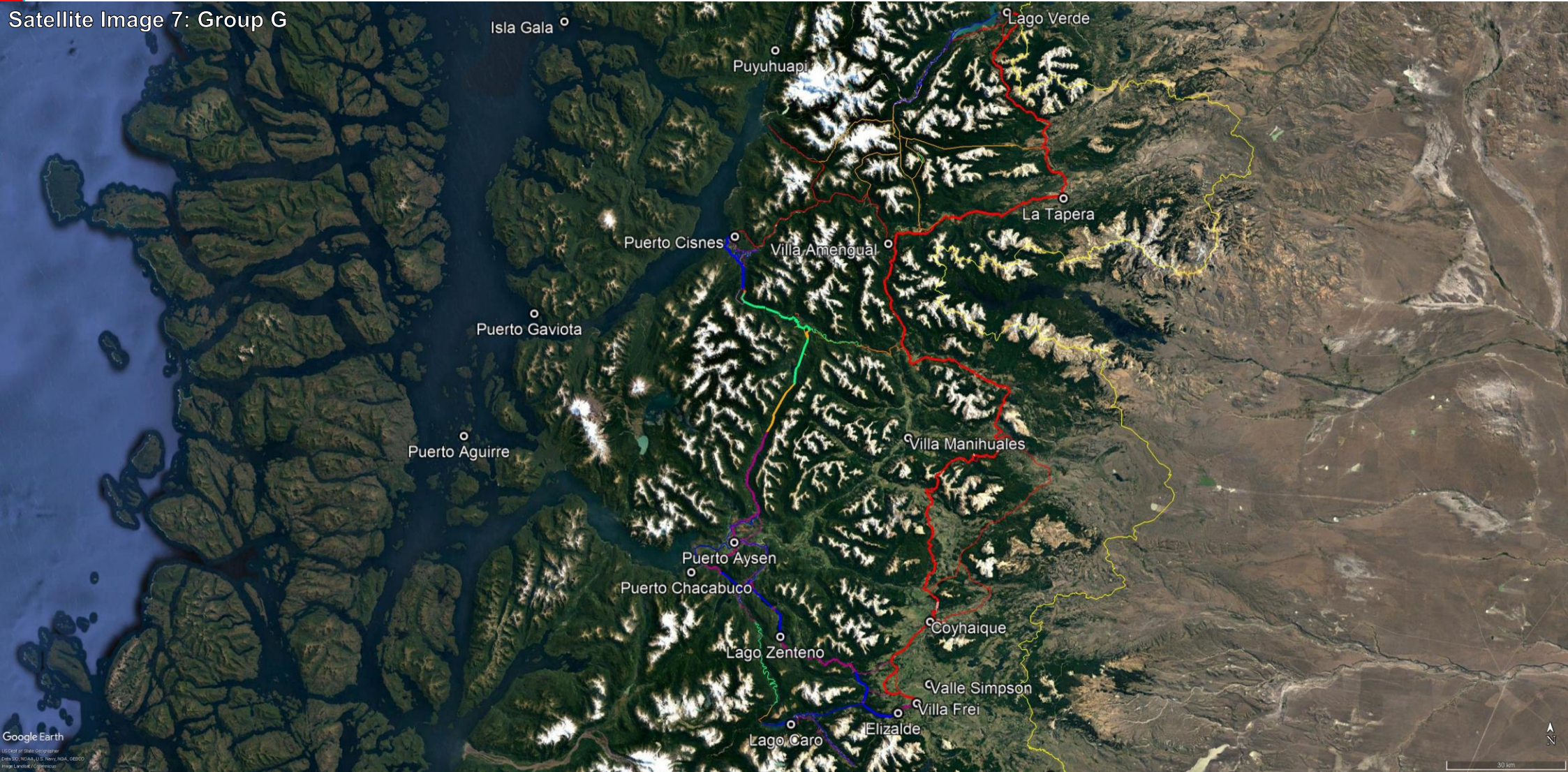
Table 14: Section Group G Summary

except if you advocate connecting footsteps or if you are a die-hard thru-hiker that attempts hiking the entire Main Route of the GPT in two seasons without packrafting.

The packrafting route is much more scenic than the hiking option. With about half the distance on water carrying a inflatable boat really pays off. The route connects half a dozen lakes and some river sections and requires walking on minor roads because the historic horse trails have been upgraded in the last one or two decades. When talking to the few settlers on the shore of the lakes and along the roads you can gain a very personal insight how this harsh land got settled during the 20th century.

Note that wind on these lakes can be powerful and rain is frequent and cold. If going southbound then wind is normally favorable. But be prepared to sit out periods of unsafe strong wind even if blasting in your travel direction.

Satellite Image 7: Group G



2.2.8 Group H: Aysen (Sur) | GPT32 - GPT37

This group provides a perspective of the quintessential spirit and landscape of Patagonia, from open windy passes and glaciers to deeply wooded valleys that channel the glacier melt into turquoise rivers and lakes. Cerro Castillo and the route between Cochrane and Villa O’Higgins called *Ruta de los Pioneros* are highlights of the GPT, in particular if you are aware of the historic relevance of this trail and if you meet the few people that make their living on this harsh land. Expect to approach both landscape and people with patience and respect.

Challenges in this region are remoteness, volatile weather and partly poor trail conditions. The walking distance from Chile Chico to Villa O’Higgins is about 350 km and you have just the village Chocrane to resupply in the middle. The partially difficult route finding on the *Ruta de los Pioneros* probably reconciles you with the easy but tiresome road walking on either end of this historic trail.

When packrafting you can opt between numerous routes and variants. You can mostly follow the hiking route and paddle the lakes and calm river sections next to the hiking route or your can opt between multiple packrafting exploration sections that transform your journey in an expedition into particular remote backcountry. These exploration options include a continuous human-powered

Group H: Aysen (Sur)		
Sections	From GPT32 to GPT36H/GPT36P	
Planning Status	Published & Verified	
Best Travel Method	Hiking or Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Very Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group G: Aysen (Norte) Group I: Campo de Hielo Sur (Norte)	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	Consider	Consider
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑ (2)
Comments: (2) Depending on the direction of travel different rivers may be partially packrafted.		

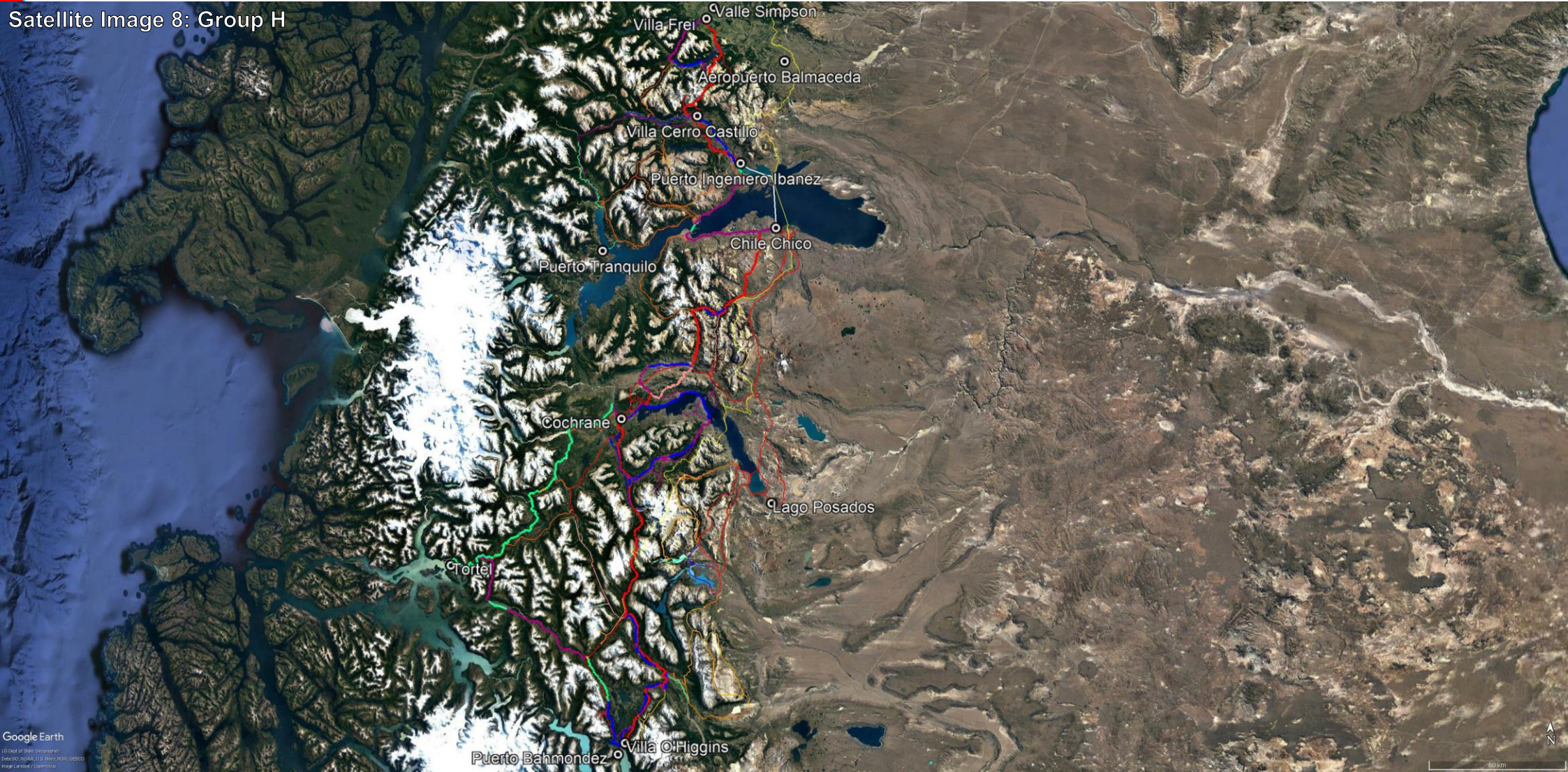
Table 15: Section Group H Summary

route with packraft crossings of the wind-beaten Lago General Carrera at a 3 km wide narrow, you may opt to float down the powerful high-volume river Río Baker or you may attempt the Packrafting Specials around the eastern or the western edge of the Northern Patagonian Icefield. These exploration routes are only recommended to highly experienced packrafters that know southern Patagonia from previous journeys.

But don't undermine regular packrafting route just because there are much more challenging options; the regular route is adventure enough. Traversing the windy Lago Cochrane requires more patience than bravery to sit out periods of heavy wind. This 42 km lake passage will get most packrafters to or beyond the comfort zone limit and every packrafter should think well if rather following the regular hiking route instead.

This group is sure to be a favorite among hikers and packrafters that seek to be challenged by difficult terrain.

Satellite Image 8: Group H



2.2.9 Group I: Campo de Hielo Sur (Norte) | GPT38 - GPT40

The giant Southern Patagonian Ice Field extends 350 km in North-South direction and is in average 35 km wide. The northern terminus is located at the latitude of Villa O’Higgins. Immense glaciers creep down from this ice field in all directions and some glaciers constantly refill the Lago O’Higgins with huge blocks of ice and turquoise glacier melt. This lake is often considered the most challenging lake in South America due to the heavy and very variable wind in the different arms of the lake.

To continue southbound hikers need to take the ferry that crosses this wind battered lake and unloads you next to the tiny settlement Candelario Mansilla, where a Chilean police outpost provides you with the required passport exit stamp. From here you can walk either directly into Argentina or follow the much more scenic routes along the shore of the lake. Some optional trails get you face to face with various glaciers that flow down from the ice field. At the northern end of Lago del Desierto the Argentine police outpost will verify that you got your Chilean exit stamp and if so, give you an entry stamp for Argentina. Rules and regulations are unclear how long you may walk in the no-mans-land in between both police posts.

The trail along Lago del Desierto is a beautiful walk and provides inspiring first peeks at one of the most famous highlights of this

Group I: Campo de Hielo Sur (Norte)		
Sections	From GPT37H/GPT37P to GPT40	
Planning Status	Published & Verified	
Best Travel Method	Hiking or Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Very Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group H: Aysen (Sur) Group J: Campo de Hielo Sur (Sur)	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	Consider	Consider
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑ (2)
Comments: (2) Depending on the direction of travel different rivers may be partially packrafted.		

Table 16: Section Group I Summary

region, Cerro Fitz Roy at the eastern edge of the ice field. Multiple optional trails get you to various lookouts and glaciers and you should walk at least some of these options. Cerro Torre seen from the Laguna Torre is one of the most pictured views. The GPT currently terminates with the *Huelta Huemul*, a 60 km circuit that gets you to the edge of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field and with perfect views over the glacier Viedma that flows into Lago Viedma.

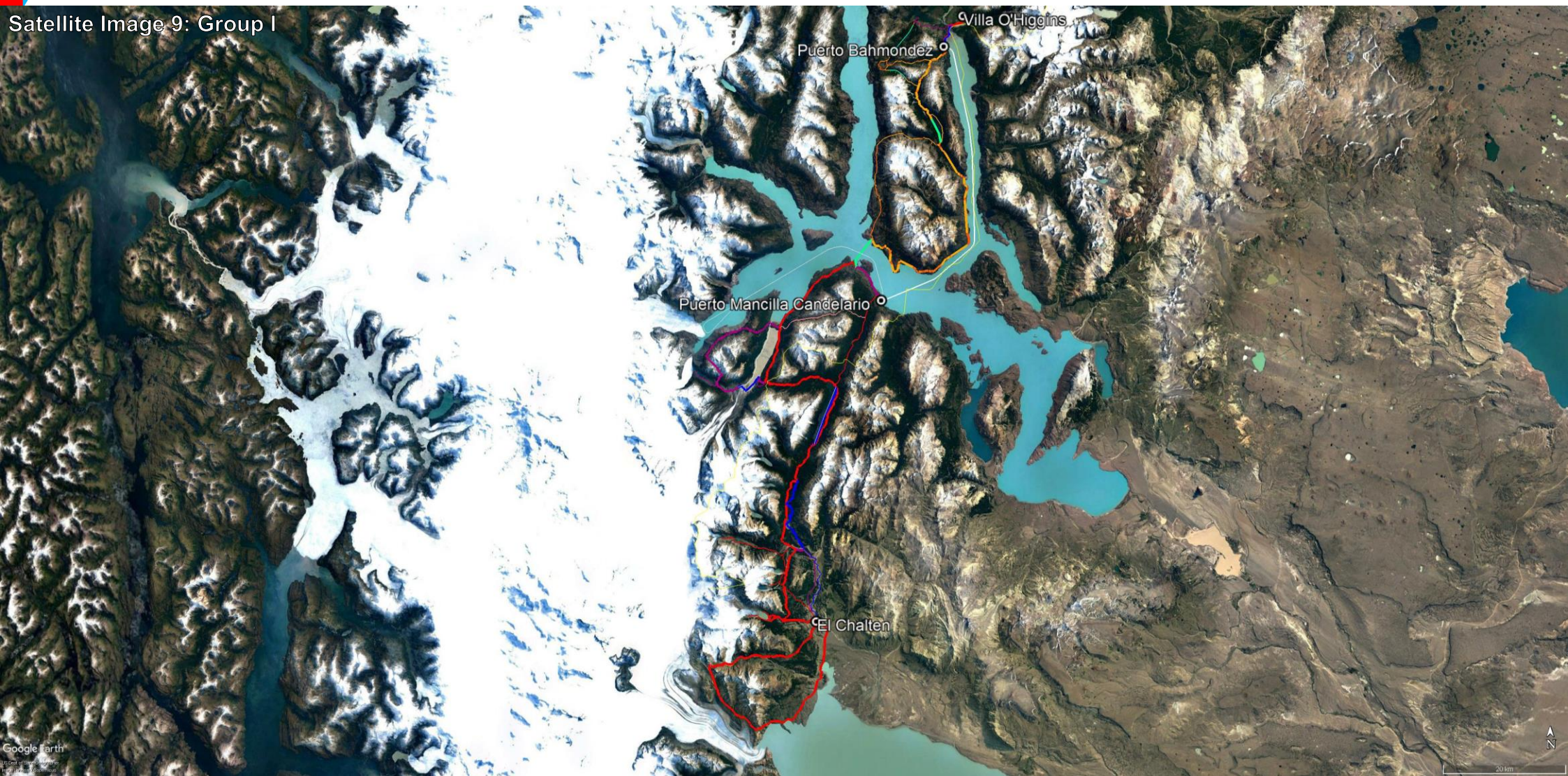
During peak tourist season the area next to Cerro Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre and the town of El Chalten are extremely crowded, which can be a difficult shift from the solitude of Patagonia that you experience on most parts of the GPT. Climate can be challenging and in particular the *Huelta Huemul* should only be attempted if the weather and wind forecast is suitable for this exposed terrain.

When packrafting you rather take the ferry over Lago O'Higgins as well. The packrafting exploration section GPT37P traverses the Peninsula Florida and requires a crossing the Lago O'Higgins at a 4 km wide narrow. This is a difficult challenge since the terrain and the climate is the opposite to what people associate with Florida. The two barely used trails on the Peninsula Florida remain unrecorded so route finding will be difficult to plan and if you get stuck you need to backtrack several days or wait up to 10 days for a boat that supplies the 3 settlers on the shore of the Peninsula Florida.

The packrafting route of the following section GPT38 will probably provide you with the Patagonia experience you are dreaming off. You can walk to a number of lookouts with perfect views over glaciers and in a calm moment you may cross Lago Chico where the Glacier Chico unloads its ice. This is probably the most impressive but not risk-free packrafting part of the GPT as you are in between the glacier edge and giant blocks of floating ice. Keep distance!

On the following section GPT39 be careful with Lago del Desierto; it can be an innocent looking beast. While calm on one end fierce wind can blow in the middle. Río de la Vueltas is a calm and easy to paddle river that saves you some otherwise annoying road walking.

Satellite Image 9: Group I



2.2.10 Group J: Campo de Hielo Sur (Sur) | GPT41 - GPT46

The planned and verified Main Route currently ends with GPT40 at shore of Lago Viedma. With this section group begins the sub-region where highly experienced hikers that are already familiar with Patagonia may take the challenge to investigate the southern extension of the GPT. Read chapter 2.3.2 Southern Extension of the Main Route (GPT41 to GPT69) on page 230 for more information to the southern extension and the obstacles that need to be overcome. Planning and preparing a continuous traverse of this section-group with connecting footsteps is as demanding as the traverse itself.

This sub-region is in character and attractiveness similar to the adjacent northern section group. Like in the north the prospective trail winds along the western edge of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field where immense glaciers flow into large wind battered lakes. The route passes two of the three heavily hyped tourist magnets of Patagonia: the glacier Perito Moreno and the national park Torres del Paine. But more impressive than these two overrun spots are the barely visited areas in between that do not lack beauty but infrastructure and remain therefore “off the radar” of more visitors.

Packrafters may float down the rivers Río Grey and Río Serrano with an optional side trip to Lago Geike. What makes packrafting

Group J: Campo de Hielo Sur (Sur)		
Sections	From GPT41 to GPT46	
Planning Status	To Be Planned	
Best Travel Method	Hiking or Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group I: Campo de Hielo Sur (Norte) Group K: Magallanes	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	No	No
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Preferable ↓ (4)
Comments: (4) Recommendation based on predominant wind direction on lakes and the flow direction of the majority of incorporated rivers.		

Table 17: Section Group J Summary

is this area challenging is the generally heavy and gusty wind. This wind impedes crossing the larger lakes and fjords by packraft and only a daredevil would gamble with his lives in such an attempt.

Satellite Image 10: Group J



J. Zona Campo de Hielo Sur Sector Sur

Google Earth

US Dept of State Geographer
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

100 km



2.2.11 Group K: Magallanes | GPT47 - GPT50

When reaching the town Puerto Natales you leave the high and glacier covered mountains and you enter the windy tundra of the region Magallanes. The mostly flat and low pains have a low vegetation cover. This creates a sharp contrast to the mountains further north. Expect a windy, cold and sometimes wet land that makes the investigation of the prospective route exhausting. The route follows mostly minor car tracks to isolated livestock farms but in some parts you have to seek your way cross-country and bush-bash as no continuous hiker-friendly route seems to exist. It will be a demanding adventure that gets you past the one or the other surprised gaucho in his outpost but you will be mostly on your own.

After roughly three quarters of the distance you reach the capital of this region: Punta Arenas. Here you can recover and recharge for the final stretch to Cabo Froward, the most southern point of continental Americas. South of this point are only islands. The prominent location of this desolate windy place attracts at last a few visitors each year and a published trail facilitates walking this final leg.

Packrafters may consider two smaller rivers in this sub-region to minimize road walking but the overall benefit of the extra weight

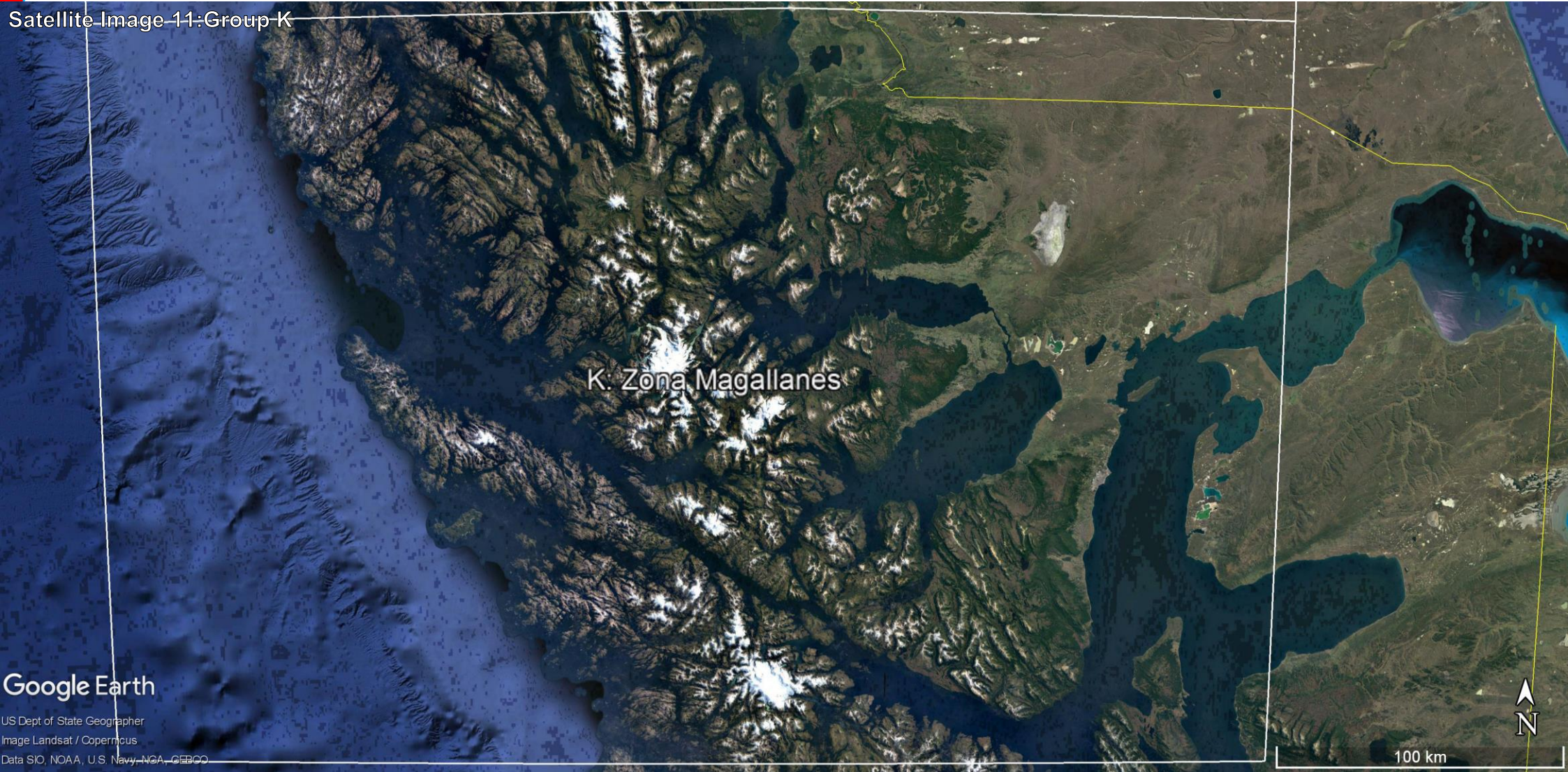
Group K: Magallanes		
Sections	From GPT47 to GPT50	
Planning Status	To Be Planned	
Best Travel Method	Hiking or Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group J: Campo de Hielo Sur (Sur) Group L: Tierra del Fuego	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	No	No
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Preferable ↓ (4)
Comments: (4) Recommendation based on predominant wind direction on lakes and the flow direction of the majority of incorporated rivers.		

Table 18: Section Group K Summary

is limited. The wind is simply most of the time too strong and only from a couch perspective packrafting along the coast looks tempting. So, don't assume that you can replace road walking by paddling.

Take it as a warning that the few long-distance hikers that crossed this area followed often the paved main roads to archive their mission. Only few patient hikers took off-road routes for a slower but more attractive walk to make it a surprising journey across Magallanes.

Satellite Image 11: Group K



Google Earth

US Dept of State Geographer
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

2.2.12 Group L: Tierra del Fuego | GPT60 - GPT69

When Chile and Argentina negotiated in 1881 their borders they could not agree on who gets the island Tierra del Fuego. Therefore, a straight line was drawn that divides this piece of land in nearly equal parts. 130 years ago, the primary question was who controls the *Estrecho de Magallanes* (Magellan Strait) and not who exploits this barely explored island. As a result, Tierra del Fuego remains divided and in only two locations you can legally cross the 250 km long border between Chile and Argentina. These two border crossings are located north of the Cordillera Darwin with one crossing being occasionally closed when one river is too high to be forded by car. This complicates and enlarges a traverse of the island substantially. You may apply for a special expedition permit to cross this border in a different location, but I have no knowledge what it actually takes to get it approved. What I know is that crossing Tierra del Fuego with minimal road walking is an expedition that must be prepared as such long in advance.

The rather flat and low northern and eastern parts of the island are used as grazing land mainly for sheep. In the south and the south-west of the island rises the Cordillera Darwin partly above 2000 m and all higher peaks are covered by glaciers. But deep valleys and fjords break profound branches into this mountain range creating some hikeable passages.

A few gravel roads traverse the tundra-like landscape of Tierra de Fuego and a single paved road provides access to the

Group L: Tierra del Fuego		
Sections	From GPT60H to GPT69	
Planning Status	To Be Planned	
Best Travel Method	Hiking or Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group K: Magallanes	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	No	No
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comments: -		

Table 19: Section Group L Summary

Argentine towns Río Grande and Ushuaia. To cross this island on foot you need to walk on these roads and only in parts you should accept the demanding challenge of searching a part of your way off-road. There are a few cross-country routes that traverse the mountain range and that finally reach the Beagle Channel on the southern shore of the island. These cross-country routes are located on the Chilean and the Argentine side.

The Chilean side of this island is in most parts uninhabited and reaching the Beagle Channel here means that you need to pre-arrange your return to Punta Arenas or your continuation to Puerto Williams carefully. You may walk on roads to the western end of the Lago Fagnano and from here an occasionally used cross-country route gets you to the Bahía Yendegai where a single *estancia* (cattle farm) and a police outpost are located next to the Beagle Channel. It's the border that makes this place so godforsaken. The Argentine town Ushuaia is just 20 km to east but there is no legal border crossing. The police post exists to make sure that you don't cross the border. So, don't get there without having arranged your exit by boat to eventually leave this desolate beauty.

Alternatively, you may walk on the gravel roads and cross from Chile into Argentina on one of the two regular border crossings. Once in Argentina you may turn south, cross the Lago Fagnano by boat and then climb over the mountain range towards Ushuaia.

Regardless what option you choose it's most of the distance road walking through a flat and windy landscape and the off-road part through the Cordillera Darwin makes it an exploration that requires a tedious preparation and a demanding climb through the mountains.

A few kilometers south of Tierra del Fuego on the other side of the Beagle Channel is the Chilean island Navarino. It became

somewhat known for the most southern hiking trail in the world. Access to this island is complicated but a growing number of people visit this place. These hikers are primarily attracted by the particular southern location and not by the unique landscape. If you collect geographic extremes you are probably tempted to get there as well.

I'm reluctant to state how beneficial a packraft might be. Looking on maps and satellite images you may draw brilliant packraft routes, but the wind easily bursts such plans. Big ships can struggle in this region with the wind so packrafting here is a unique challenge. I'm not ruling it out but I'm not suggesting it either.

Satellite Image 12: Group L



Google Earth

US Dept of State Geographer
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Data LDEO-Columbia, NSF, NOAA



100 km

2.2.13 Group M: Yelcho | GPT70 - GPT75

If you are not driven by the desire to collect geographic extremes but by the curiosity to explore the overlooked than this section group in central Patagonia might be of interest you. Travelling this area is only recommended with packrafting gear even if some sections of this group don't require it. To enjoy the more attractive parts in this sub-region you need a boat to float down rivers and cross lakes.

In the second half of the last century a small number of settlers followed the rivers and lakes into this remote area. Their descendants make now a living as livestock and homestead farmers in the valleys below snow-capped mountains. The suggested hiking routes follow the gravel roads and horse trails that these settlers created and with your packraft you can cross attractive lakes and float down rivers. The routes of this group form a network without a clearly set direction. From the start at river Futaleufu you can either head southwest and reconnect to the main trail at the Río Palena or; and this is to my opinion the more interesting option; you can walk and paddle northwest to finally reach the Patagonian fjords at the town Chaiten. Here you connect with the next section group in which you can explore the Patagonian fjords with your packraft.

It's an area for experienced packrafters that wish to discover a remote and normally overlooked area in the Patagonian heartland.

Group M: Yelcho		
Sections	From GPT70P to GPT75P	
Planning Status	Published & Verified	
Best Travel Method	Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Required	
Adjacent Groups	Group E: Lagos Argentinos Group F: Palena Group N: Costa	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	No	Consider
Travel Direction	None	Preferable ← (5)
Comments: (5) See detailed information and recommendation to individual sections.		

Table 20: Section Group M Summary

Meeting the welcoming settlers along the route is part of the beauty of this area and adds a unique cultural and social experience to your journey. By combining the packrafting routes of section groups D, E, M and N you can make an impressive round trip with a big packrafting proportion.

Satellite Image 13: Group M

Chaiken

Villa Futalaufquen

Esquel

Trevelin

Aldea Escolar

Futaleufu

Puerto Cardenas

Santa Lucia

Corcovado

Carrenleufu

Palena

Villa Vanguardia

Google Earth

10 km

2.2.14 Group N: Costa | GPT76 - GPT78

Fjords are one of the defining features of Patagonia and this group explores the northern Patagonian fjords. Paddling these fjords in a packraft is demanding and exposes you to wind and weather. But attempting this in the north is smarter than trying it in the south where wind is generally stronger and suitable landing beaches are less frequent. In this northern area a few settlers picked plots of land along the coast to build their houses and grow livestock. This provides you with landing beaches, suitable camp sites and an authentic insight into the Patagonian population.

In some parts you can either paddle or walk along the coast depending what wind and waves permit. But about half the fjord paddling distance is next to steep mountains without any possibility to walk on land. In unfavourable condition you might find a tiny landing beach to wait for better weather but you will be unable to advance on land. This makes it a route that requires your patience to wait while the weather nails you to a beach and when tidal flows temporary turn against you. But in this sub-region you will see more wildlife than in other areas of Patagonia as the sea is full of life.

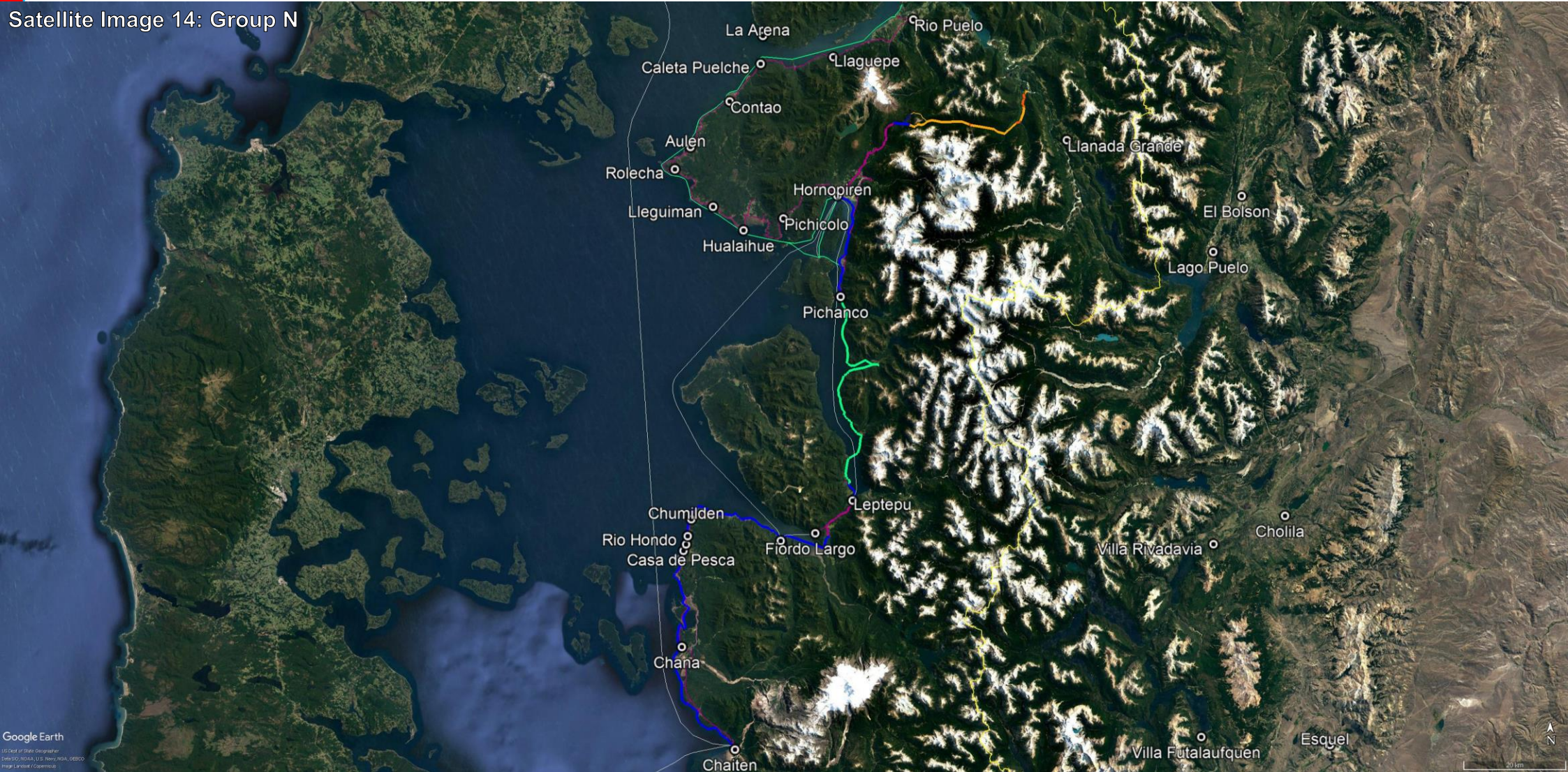
A particular demanding exploration section of this group is the connection between the port village Hornopiren and the Río Puelo. Decades ago this route was used to drive cattle from the pastures of the Puelo valley to a port on the coast for sale but the

Group N: Costa		
Sections	From GPT76P to GPT78P	
Planning Status	Published & Partly Verified	
Best Travel Method	Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Required	
Adjacent Groups	Group D: Lagos Chilenos Group M: Yelcho	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	No	Consider
Travel Direction	None	Both ↓↑
Comments: -		

Table 21: Section Group N Summary

construction of a road paralleling the Río Puelo and the operation of a ferry over Lago Tagua Tagua made this cattle trail obsolete. So a part of the historic trail is now badly overgrown and may be impossible to find and to follow. Therefore, making your way through thick growth will be very demanding and particularly slow and you should be prepared to return on the same route if you do not advance as required to make this connection.

Satellite Image 14: Group N



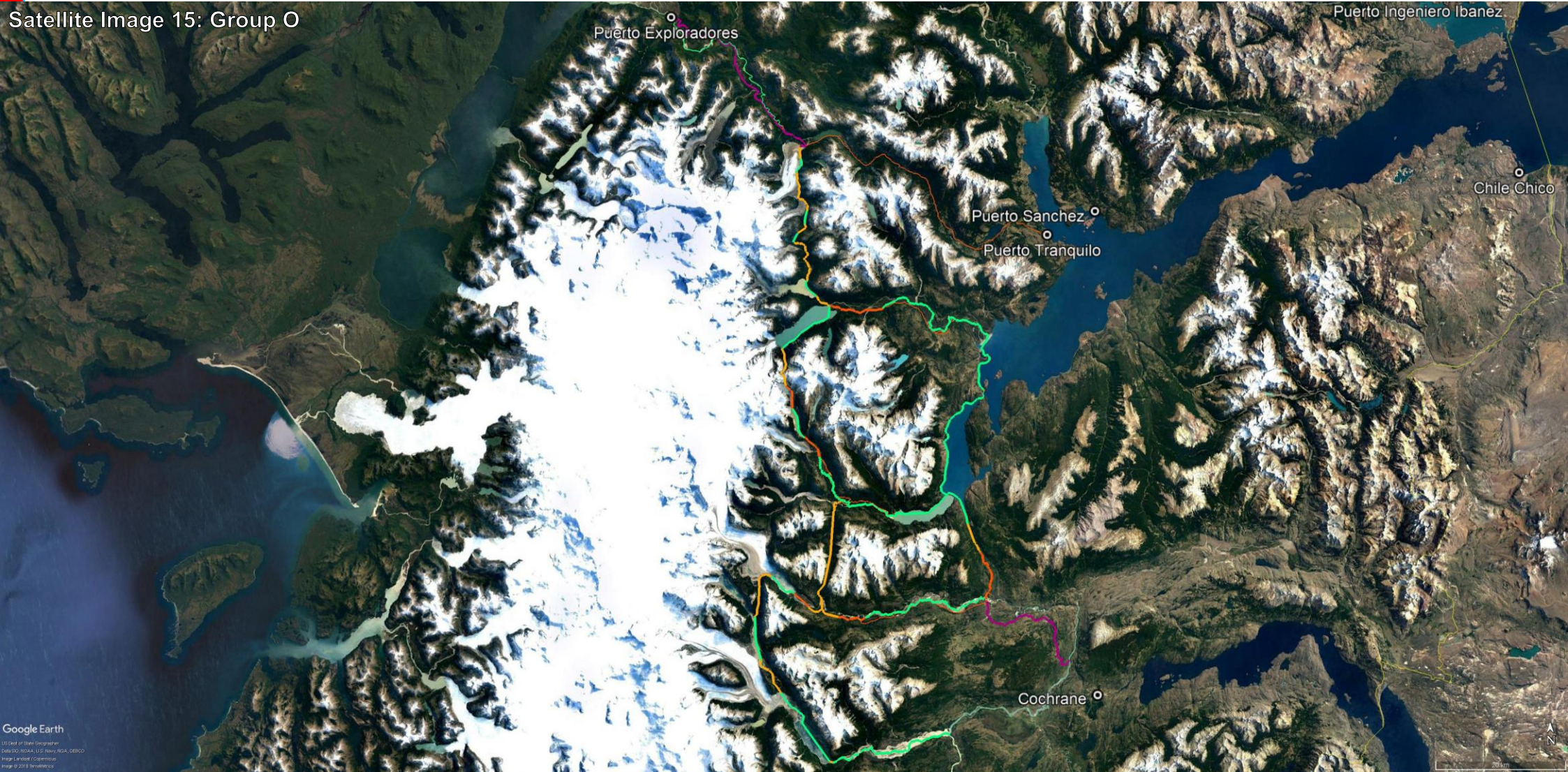
2.2.15 Group O: Campo de Hielo Norte (Monte) | GPT80 - GPT83

To be issued.

Group O: Campo de Hielo Norte (Monte)		
Sections	From GPT80P to GPT83P	
Planning Status	Published Only	
Best Travel Method	Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Required	
Adjacent Groups	Group H: Aysen (Sur)	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	No	No
Travel Direction	None	Preferable ↓ (4)
Comments: (4) Recommendation based on predominant wind direction on lakes and the flow direction of the majority of incorporated rivers.		

Table 22: Section Group O Summary

Satellite Image 15: Group O



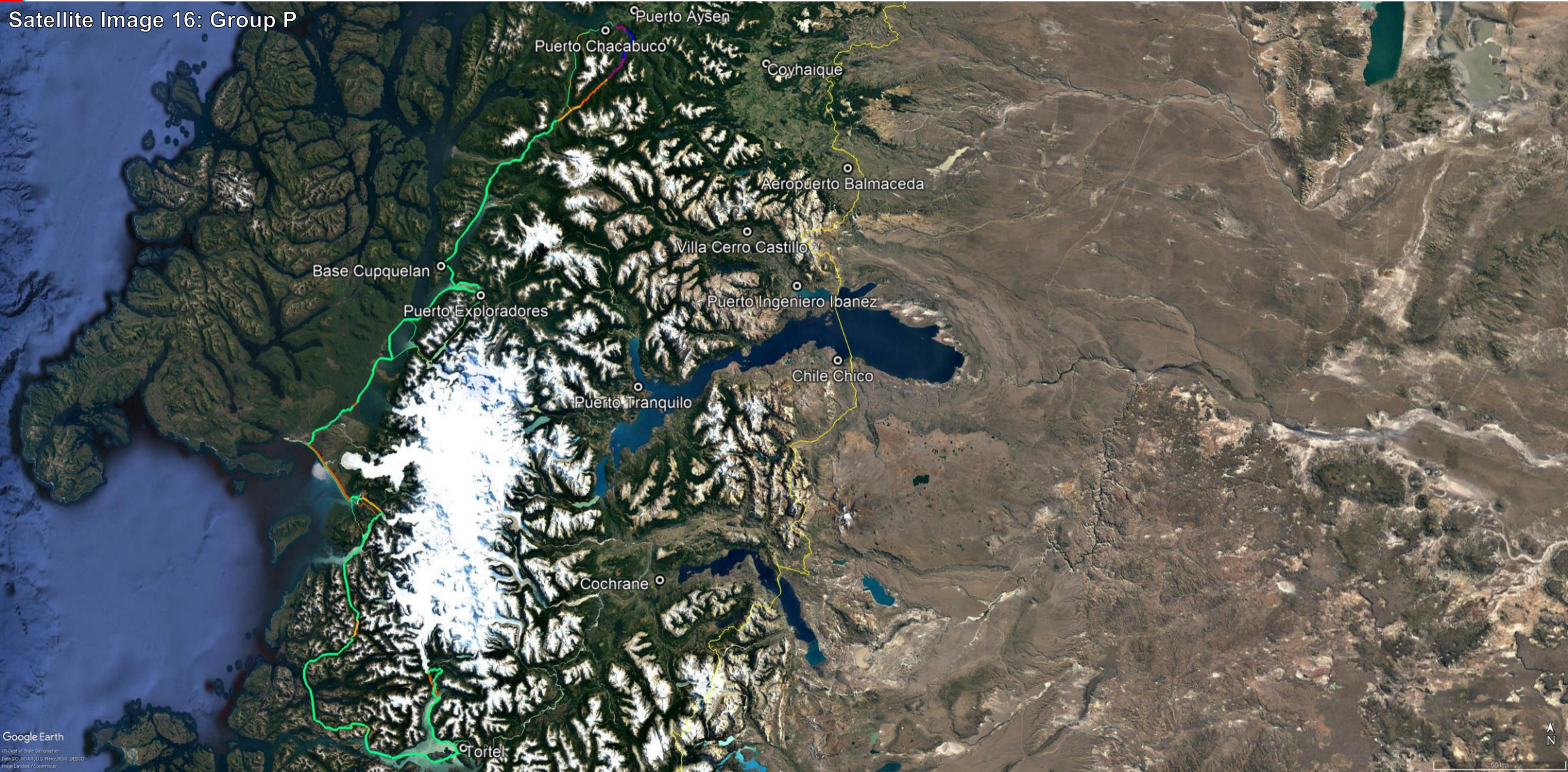
2.2.16 Group P: Campo de Hielo Norte (Mar) | GPT90 - GPT92

To be issued.

Group P: Campo de Hielo Norte (Mar)		
Sections	From GPT90P to GPT92P	
Planning Status	Published Only	
Best Travel Method	Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Required	
Adjacent Groups	Group H: Aysen (Sur)	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	No	No
Travel Direction	None	Preferable ↓ (4)
Comments: (4) Recommendation based on predominant wind direction on lakes and the flow direction of the majority of incorporated rivers.		

Table 23: Section Group P Summary

Satellite Image 16: Group P



2.2.17 Group Q: Huella Andina

To be issued.

Group Q: Huella Andina		
Sections	From HA01 to HA??	
Planning Status	Published By Others / No Track Files / Currently Unmaintained	
Best Travel Method	Hiking or Packrafting	
Benefit of Packraft	Useful	
Adjacent Groups	Group C: Pehuenche Group D: Lagos Chilenos Group E: Lagos Argentinos	
Recommendations	Hiking	Packrafting
Single-Season Hike	No	No
Travel Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comments: -		

Table 24: Section Group Q Summary

2.3 Choosing Your Route

These 17 sub-regions with roughly 90 sections form the route network of the GPT that currently sums up to more than 16'000 km. Trying to walk and paddle it all is an absurd idea, so you need to make your choice. If you are still confused or undecided what sub-regions and sections are suitable for you for let me outline a different perspective on this route network.

2.3.1 Main Route (GPT01 to GPT40)

The Main Route consists of sections GPT01 to GPT40³⁰ and connects Santiago de Chile with the Southern Patagonian Ice Field with a continuous hiking route. This route was planned, verified and published between 2013 and 2017 and other hikers have walked all sections in recent years. This makes the Main Route the primary choice for hikers that look for a reasonable reliable hiking route without substantial explorations.

The Main Route also offers excellent packrafting options. Many of the incorporated water routes have been paddled by packrafters between 2016 and 2018 based on the GPT publication. This makes the Main Route also a sound choice for packrafters.

The Main Route from GPT01 to GPT40 is therefore the backbone of the GPT that will attract the majority of hikers and packrafters that come for the first time to Patagonia to travel parts of this route network.

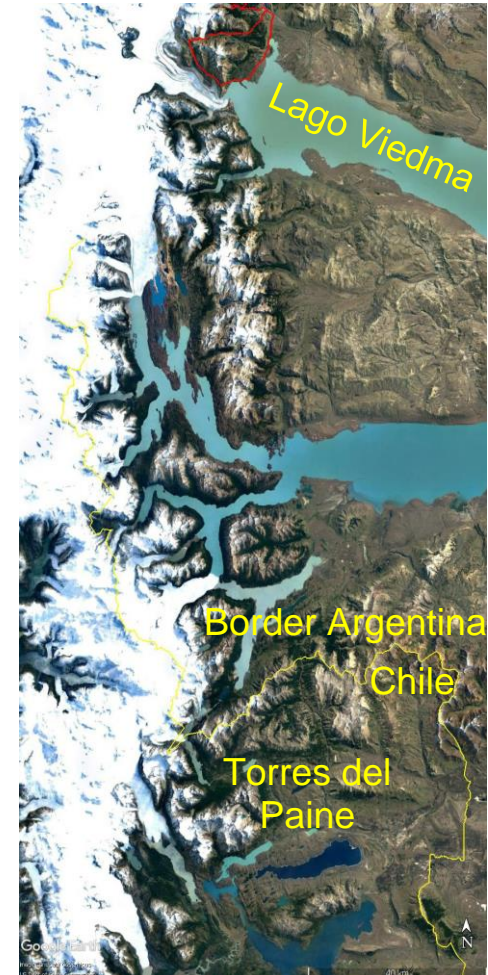
In the chapter [2.3.9 Choosing Your Sections of the Main Route starting on page 241](#) I analyse the Main Route in more detail.

³⁰ Sections GPT01 to GPT40 are bundled into the sections groups A to I.

2.3.2 Southern Extension of the Main Route (GPT41 to GPT69)

The southern terminus of the Main Route stands currently at the shore of Lago Viedma on the eastern edge of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field. There are attractive trails and suitable packraft routes south of Lago Viedma but three logistical challenges complicate a continuous southern extension of the GPT Main Route without significant road walking:

1. There is **no ferry service over Lago Viedma**. Several sight-seeing boats make regular tours from the northern shore to the glacier Viedma but do not continue to the southern shore. This lake is also very wind-exposed and therefore to my current knowledge too dangerous to be packrafted or to be crossed with a smaller motor boat.
2. There is **no legal border crossing between Argentina and Chile on the prospective routes** that connect Lago Argentino with Torres del Paine. It might be possible to apply for a special expedition permit but this seems utterly complicated and I know nobody who successfully applied for such a permit to cross the border at a *paso no habilitado* (border crossing in between the established border check points). A scientific expedition has better chances to get such a permit but an individual hiker will struggle with two national administrations that are not particular keen to please an individual hiker that wants to leave the established routes.
3. **Torres del Paine** became overrun in recent years and to control the crowds reservations for camp sites must be made several months in advance for specific dates. This makes it



Picture 101: Southern Extension Obstacles on the GPT

unpractical for long-distance hikers to cross Torres del Paine as part of a long hike especially during the main season (December till March) when armies of hikers flood this national park³¹.

Overcoming these challenges is not impossible but attempting it makes out of an already very challenging long-distance hike a bureaucratic and expensive expedition. An alternative is giving up continuity and bus around these obstacles without maintaining connecting footsteps. This permits visiting selected attractive hiking areas in the Magellan region and on Tierra del Fuego without walking hundreds of kilometres on wind-beaten gravel roads through the desert-like Argentine Pampa.

I have an approximate route in my mind and I already assigned the section numbers GPT41 to GPT50³² to this future southbound extension to the most southern continental point of Americas: Cabo Froward. An extension of the GPT to Tierra del Fuego and Isla Navarino is also under consideration. For this the section numbers GPT60 to GPT69³³ are reserved.

The southern extension of the Main Route may be of interest for experienced hikers and packrafters that wish to contribute to the GPT. It's the terrain for adventurers that intentionally choose the unpredictable. I can share my knowledge and provide suggestions for such an exploration on request. What I can't provide at this time are detailed verified tracks that connect the current terminus of the Main Route with the southern tip of Americas. All I have are bits and pieces. This makes the exploration of the southern extension a true adventure that should only be attempted by hikers or packrafters that travelled Patagonia previously.

³¹ If someone wishes to visit Torres del Paine than this is preferably done outside of the main season. But check carefully the terms and conditions. Some hikers reported that they had to join a guided group to hike in Torres del Paine before the official opening date what made it an expensive and restrictive experience.

³² GPT41 to GPT50 correspond to section Groups J and K.

³³ GPT60 to GPT69 form section group L.

For now, this southern extension of the Main Route is not on the top of my agenda. Before personally focusing on it I wish to consolidate the GPT between Santiago and Lago Viedma by investigating additional packrafting routes (i.e. GPT70P to GPT92P) and researching some of the unverified options further north.

2.3.3 Northern Extension of the Main Route

Santiago de Chile is a suitable northern start or finish point and I'm not contemplating with a further northern extension. The last metro/subway station Puente Alto provides an easy access and minimizes walking through an overcrowded mega-city. Santiago de Chile as the northern terminus is the point that provides the best possible contrast to the southern terminus of the GPT. It's from metropolis to the back of beyond; it's from semi-desert to ice fields.

The *Precordillera* in the vicinity of Santiago offers some very attractive hiking. There is also at least one "hiking pass" to cross the Andes from Chile to Argentina on trails with proper border checkpoints where you get your legally required exit and entry stamps. So, Santiago is not the necessary finish point.

But creating a northbound long-distance trail that starts at Santiago or on a similar latitude in Argentina seems a bigger challenge than creating the GPT; at least if based on the same principles that I applied to the GPT: feasible and attractive for hiking and minimal road walking on routes with transit traffic. North of Santiago the Andes are very high and you either need to climb into really thin air and rocky terrain or you evade to the east or the west into the deserts on either side of the main mountain range. So water deficiency becomes an enormous challenge. In my research I could not find long continuous suitable trails and the existing gravel roads are no option for me. Most hikers that set themselves the goal to cross Chile or Argentina on foot took primarily roads and this is what cautions me. But the challenge is out. If you want to pioneer a new long-distance trail you may go for it!

2.3.4 Packrafting Specials (GPT70P to GPT92P)

West of the Main Route are the Packrafting Specials. The 16 sections from GPT70P to GPT92P³⁴ are connected with the Main Route in multiple locations between GPT22 and GPT36. The Packrafting Specials don't set a common preferred travel direction what means that these sections can be combined with parts of the Main Route into a long southbound packrafting trip or in a big circuit through central Patagonia.

The Packrafting Specials are of interest for experienced packrafters that know Patagonia from past trips or that have plenty of experience in similar terrain. Some of these sections pose a moderate challenge while other are a demanding expedition on their own. The Packrafting Specials require more preparation to understand the specific challenges, to select the right gear and to assemble these sections into suitable journey.

In the chapter [2.3.10 Choosing your Sections of the Packrafting Specials on page 268](#) I provide more planning and travelling suggestions to the Packrafting Specials.

2.3.5 Huella Andina (Group Q)

To be issued.

³⁴ The Packrafting Special are grouped into the sub-regions M, N and P.

2.3.6 Planning Status

All sections of the current Main Route and good part o the Packrafting Specials have been hiked and packrafted by several persons in recent years. Therefore the planning status is “Published & Verified”. Many routes of the remaining sections are either planned without being “ground-truthed” or not even planned in detail yet. If you wish to contribute to the further development of the GPT than these sections might be of interest for you; otherwise not.

The table on the next page provides an overview to the planning status of the GPT. Below is the explanation of the used terminology:

Published & Verified: At least the regular route was hiked and packrafted in recent years. You can be reasonable confident that the regular route is traversable but this does not necessarily apply to all optional routes and even less to the exploration routes of these sections.

Published Only: Detailed routes have been planned using satellite images and multiple other sources but these routes have not been verified or “ground-truthed”. There is good evidence that these routes have been used in the past but the current condition and the precise routing of these routes is partly unknown.

To be Planned: I intend to plan a detailed route in the next years and currently gather useful information like travel accounts, GPS records and draft routes based on satellite images.

(1): Southern Extension. (2): Packrafting Specials.

Section Planning Status				
Section Group Designation			Planning Status	Sections
Code	Name			
A	Precordillera	Current Main Route	Published & Verified	From GPT01 to GPT04
B	Arrieros		Published & Verified	From GPT05 to GPT09
C	Pehuenche		Published & Verified	From GPT10 to GPT16
D	Lagos Chilenos		Published & Verified	From GPT17H/GPT17P to GPT22
E	Lagos Argentinos		Published & Verified	From GPT23 to GPT26
F	Palena		Published & Verified	GPT27H, GPT27P, GPT28P, GPT30P
G	Aysen (Norte)		Published & Verified	GPT28H, GPT29H, GPT29P, GPT30H, GPT31H, GPT31P
H	Aysen (Sur)		Published & Verified	From GPT32 to GPT36H/GPT36P
I	Campo de Hielo Sur (Norte)		Published & Verified	From GPT37H/GPT37P to GPT40
J	Campo de Hielo Sur (Sur)	(1)	To Be Planned	From GPT41 to GPT46
K	Magallanes		To Be Planned	From GPT47 to GPT50
L	Tierra del Fuego		To Be Planned	From GPT60H to GPT69
M	Yelcho	(2)	Published & Verified	From GPT70P to GPT75P
N	Costa		Published & Partly Verified	From GPT76P to GPT78P
O	Campo de Hielo Norte (Monte)		Published Only	From GPT80P to GPT83P
P	Campo de Hielo Norte (Mar)		Published Only	From GPT90P to GPT92P
Q	Huella Andina		Published By Others / No Track Files / Currently Unmaintained	From HA01 to HA??

Table 25: Section Group Planning Status and Sections

2.3.7 Hiking and Packrafting Suggestions

As outlined earlier [thru-hiking the GPT in one season is not recommended](#). This means that [a choice should be made](#). In the table on the next page I provide my suggestion of what I consider the most attractive choice for the such a Single-Season Section-Hike on the GPT. If you have the full season attempt to hike or packraft at least the sections in the category “Recommended”. With the time left you should consider travelling additional section of the category “Consider”.

Different suggestions are made for hikers and packrafters. The northern section groups B, C and D are a real delight for hiking but packrafting gear is more burden than benefit on the sections of group B and C. Therefore, packrafter should skip the section group B and C and focus on sections where a packraft can be deployed frequently. This is the case on the sections of group D, E, F and G. Here packrafting is epic (approx. 48% on water) but hiking the sections of group E, F and G requires more boring road walking. So make your choice based on your method of travel (hiking or packrafting).

The GPT currently offers enough routes to easily fill two to four full seasons without repeating trails and packrafting routes. So it makes sense to dedicate more than one season to the GPT especially if you aim to hike and paddle the entire length of this route network in a Multi-Season Thru-Hike. If you do this than you should consider hiking at least one season without carrying packraft gear but returning another season with a packraft to experience the full diversity of Greater Patagonia. In the table on the next page I state for each section group what method of travel (hiking or packrafting) is more attractive.

Hiking and Packrafting Suggestions					
Section Group Designation		Single-Season Section-Hike		Multi-Season Thru-Hike	Benefit of Packrafting
Code	Name	Hiking	Packrafting	Preferable Travel Method	
A	Precordillera	Consider	No	Hiking	Only Burden (1)
B	Arrieros	Recommended	Consider	Hiking	Deployable (2)
C	Pehuenche	Recommended	Consider	Hiking	Deployable (2)
D	Lagos Chilenos	Recommended	Recommended	Packrafting	Very Useful (4)
E	Lagos Argentinos	Consider	Recommended	Packrafting	Very Useful (4)
F	Palena	Consider	Recommended	Packrafting	Very Useful (4)
G	Aysen (Norte)	No	Recommended	Packrafting	Very Useful (4)
H	Aysen (Sur)	Consider	Consider	Hiking or Packrafting	Very Useful (4)
I	Campo de Hielo Sur (Norte)	Consider	Consider	Hiking or Packrafting	Very Useful (4)
J	Campo de Hielo Sur (Sur)	No	No	Hiking or Packrafting	Useful (3)
K	Magallanes	No	No	Hiking or Packrafting	Useful (3)
L	Tierra del Fuego	No	No	Hiking or Packrafting	Useful (3)
M	Yelcho	No	Consider	Packrafting	Required (5)
N	Costa	No	Consider	Packrafting	Required (5)
O	Campo de Hielo Norte (Monte)	No	No	Packrafting	Required (5)
P	Campo de Hielo Norte (Mar)	No	No	Packrafting	Required (5)
Q	Huella Andina	No	No	Hiking or Packrafting	Useful (3)

Table 26: Zone Hiking and Packrafting Recommendation

Comments to Benefit of Packrafting
(1) A packraft cannot be used on any section of this group. Therefore carrying a packraft is not recommended.
(2) A packraft can only be used on comparable short distances on these sections. Therefore the benefit of carrying a packraft is limited when traversing the entire section group. A packraft may be beneficial when exploring specific areas around lakes.
(3) A packraft can be used on some sections. Therefore carrying a packraft is beneficial.
(4) A packraft can be used on substantial distances of these sections. Therefore carrying a packraft is highly beneficial.
(5) A packraft is required for a traverse of these sections. Therefore carrying a packraft is essential.

Table 27: Comment to Zone Hiking and Packrafting Recommendation

2.3.8 Preferable Travel Direction

Before you depart you need to make a choice in which direction to travel; either southbound or northbound. When only hiking (without any packrafting) you are normally free to choose either direction. So, this choice can be based on rather practical consideration like timing (some sections are earlier accessible than others), additional travel plans before and after the hike and the necessity to pre-arrange an entry permit when traversing a section in a specific direction.

When packrafting then these choices are limited by the flow direction of rivers. Believe me, you don't want to paddle 170 km upstream on the Río Palena. Also the predominant wind direction on lakes and fjords can make a specific travel direction preferable.

The table below provides this essential planning information for each section group. The arrows indicate the preferable travel direction: ↓ southbound, ↑ northbound and ← westbound.

Preferable Travel Direction				
Section Group Designation		Preferable Travel Direction		Sections
Code	Name	Hiking	Packrafting	
A	Precordillera	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑	From GPT01 to GPT04
B	Arrieros	Both ↓↑ (1)	Both ↓↑ (1)	From GPT05 to GPT09
C	Pehuenche	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑	From GPT10 to GPT16
D	Lagos Chilenos	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑ (2)	From GPT17H/GPT17P to GPT22
E	Lagos Argentinos	Both ↓↑	Only ↓ (3)	From GPT23 to GPT26
F	Palena	Both ↓↑	Only ↓ (3)	GPT27H, GPT27P, GPT28P, GPT30P
G	Aysen (Norte)	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑ (2)	GPT28H, GPT29H, GPT29P, GPT30H, GPT31H, GPT31P
H	Aysen (Sur)	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑ (2)	From GPT32 to GPT36H/GPT36P
I	Campo de Hielo Sur (Norte)	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑ (2)	From GPT37H/GPT37P to GPT40
J	Campo de Hielo Sur (Sur)	Both ↓↑	Preferable ↓ (4)	From GPT41 to GPT46
K	Magallanes	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑ (2)	From GPT47 to GPT50
L	Tierra del Fuego	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑ (2)	From GPT60H to GPT69
M	Yelcho	None	Preferable ← (5)	From GPT70P to GPT75P
N	Costa	None	Both ↓↑	From GPT76P to GPT78P
O	Campo de Hielo Norte (Monte)	None	Preferable ↓ (4)	From GPT80P to GPT83P
P	Campo de Hielo Norte (Mar)	None	Preferable ↓ (4)	From GPT90P to GPT92P
Q	Huella Andina	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑	From HA01 to HA??

Table 28: Preferable Travel Direction

Comments
(1) For northbound travel an entry permit to the hydro-power station "Los Cypresses" is required. This permit must be requested in advance and is only given to parties of at least two hikers.
(2) Depending on the direction of travel different rivers may be partially packrafted.
(3) Due to the flow direction of the incorporated rivers only southbound travel is feasible.
(4) Recommendation based on predominant wind direction on lakes and the flow direction of the majority of incorporated rivers.
(5) See detailed information and recommendation to individual sections.

Table 29: Comments to Preferable Travel Direction

2.3.9 Choosing Your Sections of the Main Route

The previous chapters provided an introduction to all sections of the GPT (GPT01 to GPT92P) by bundling similar sections into section groups and analysing these sub-regions. The majority of hikers came probably to the conclusion to hike parts of the Main Route (GPT01 to GPT40). The other sections (GPT41 to GPT92P) may attract experienced packrafters and adventures that wish to investigate new routes.

The following chapters analyse the Main Route in detail to facilitate an educated choice of specific sections of the Main Route. This analysis compares the hiking with the packrafting options and includes:

- the elevation profile,
- the length of the sections (distance and required time),
- the recommended timing (during which month each section is normally traversable),
- the trail type composition (percentage of actual trails, roads, cross-country, bush-bashing and packrafting on water) and
- the attractiveness and difficulty rating of all sections of the Main Route.

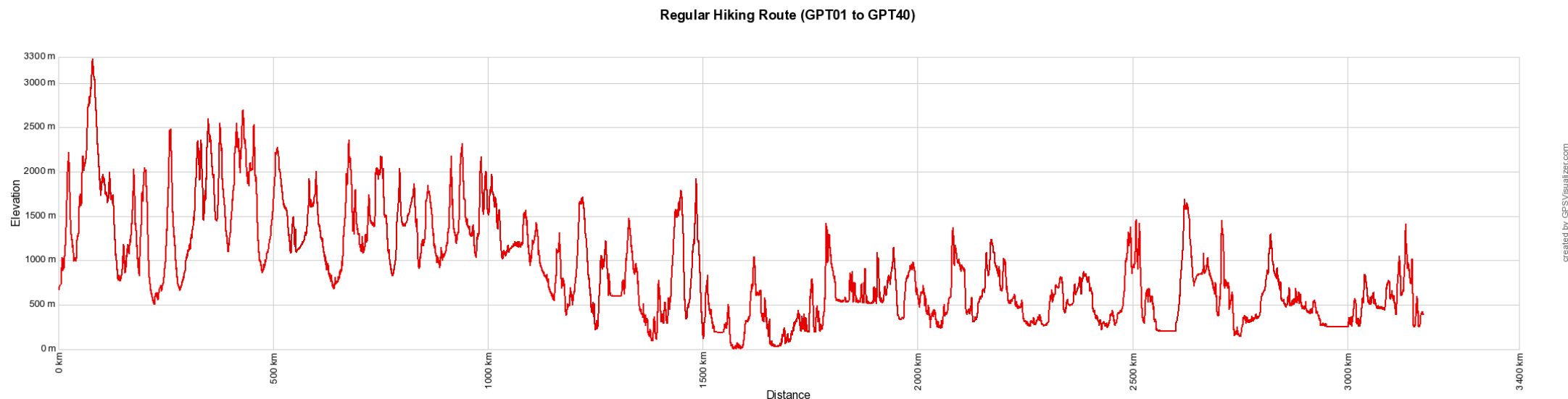
With this knowledge each hiker should be able to compose his personal route.

2.3.9.1 Elevation Profile

Greater Patagonia is a very diverse region with summits exceeding 6000 m in the north and a vast network of fjords along the Pacific coast in the south. This diversity is reflected on the elevation profile of the GPT. See also [2.1.1 Diversity of Greater Patagonia on page 170](#).

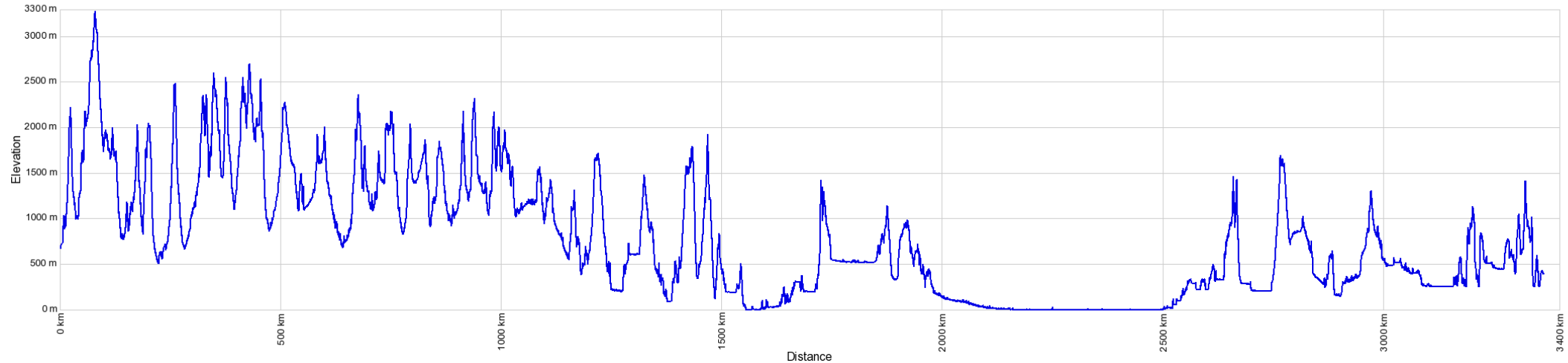
The two charts on this and the next page show the elevation profiles of the regular routes from section GPT01 to GPT40 (Main Route, Section Groups A to I). The first chart shows the hiking route while the second chart shows the combined hiking and packrafting route that includes packrafting from section GPT17P to GPT39 (Zone D to I). These are the sections where packrafting is highly recommended and generally more attractive than hiking. From section GPT01 to GPT16 (Zone A to C) the benefit of carrying a packraft is limited therefore hiking is generally recommended and the packrafting elevation profile displays regular hiking route in this northern area.

The elevation profiles include the ferry and boat transfers which can be recognized as leveled segments in the elevation profile.



Elevation Profile 1: Regular Hiking Route (GPT01 to GPT40)

Regular Hiking Route (GPT01 to GPT16 and GPT40) and Regular Packrafting Route (GPT17P to GPT39)

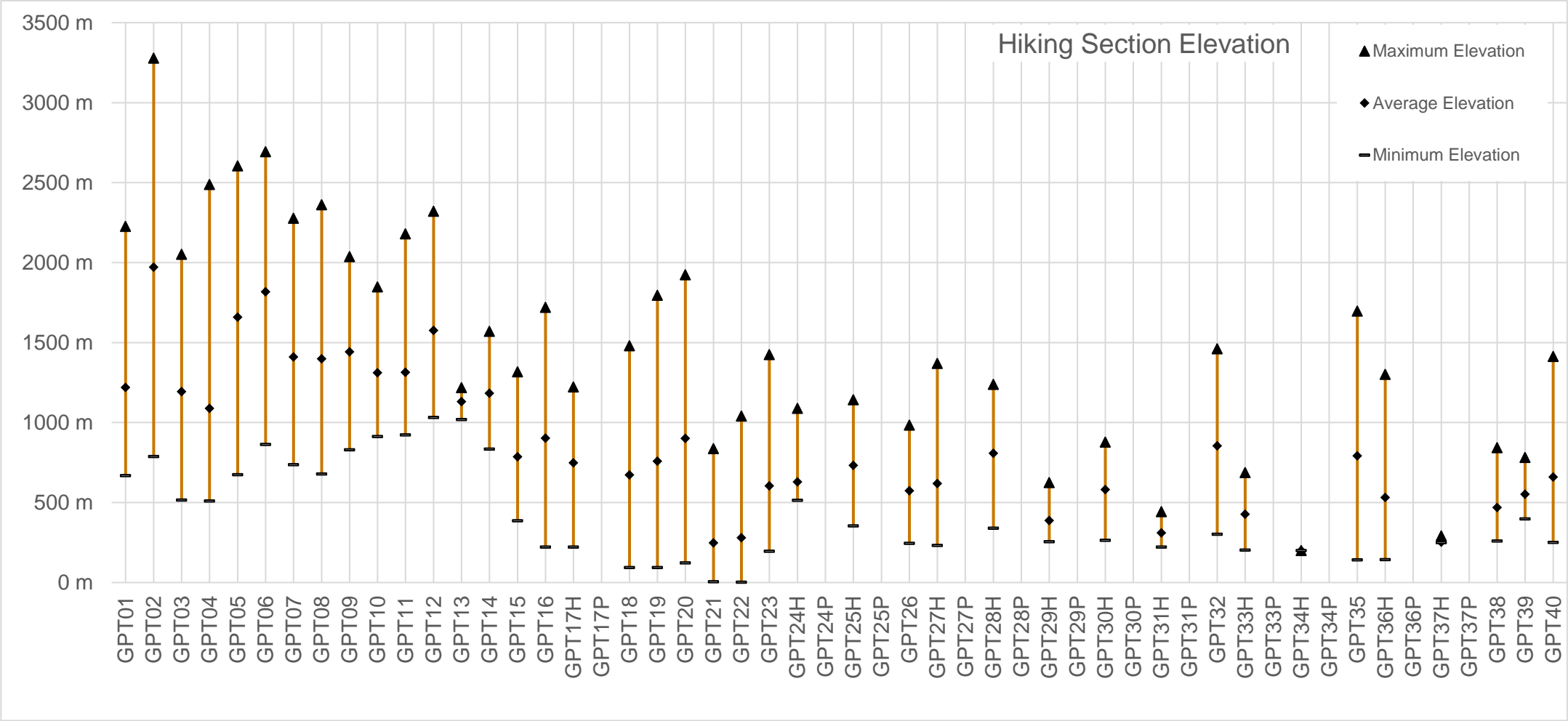


created by GPSVisualizer.com

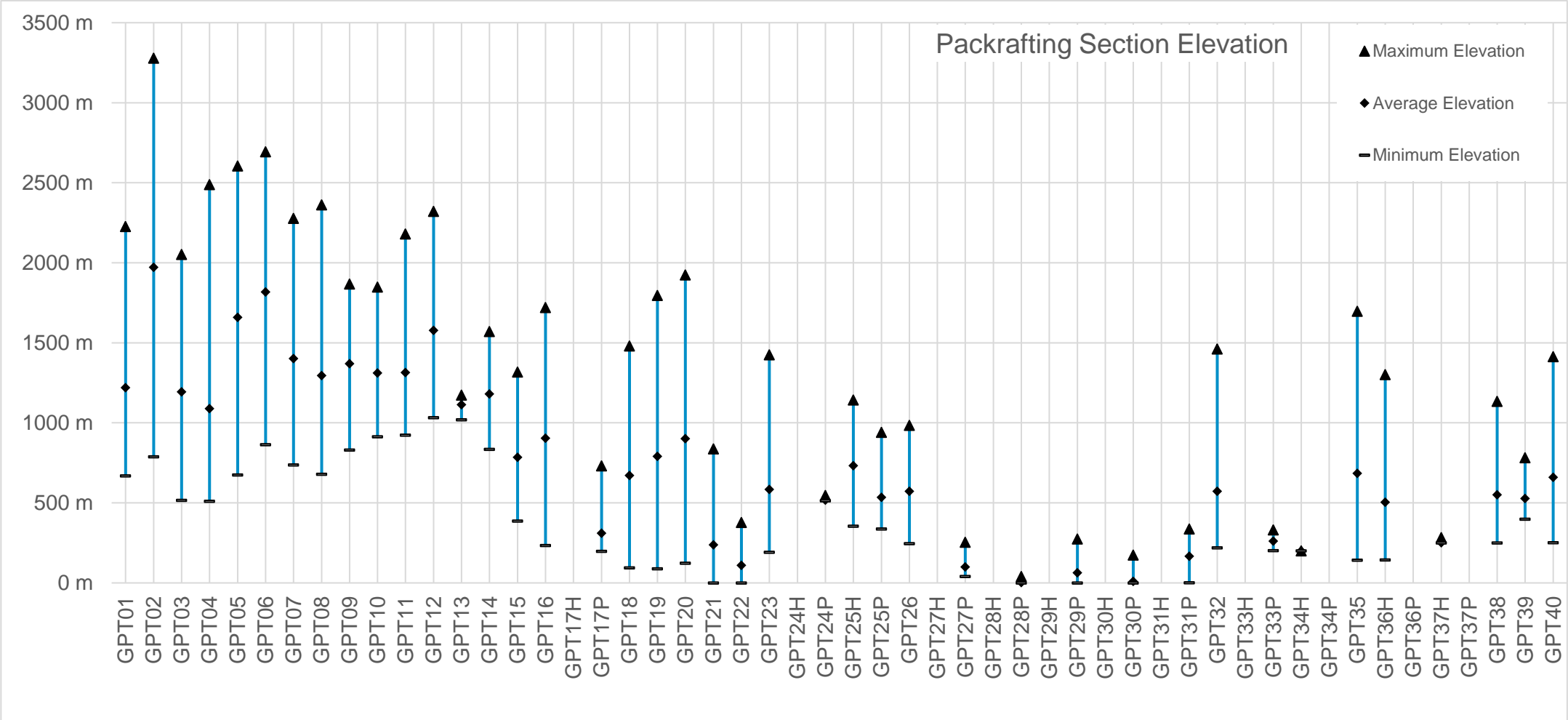
Elevation Profile 2: Combined Regular Hiking (GPT01 to GPT16 and GPT40) and Regular Packrafting Route (GPT17P to GPT39)

The pair of charts on the next two pages show the maximum elevation, the average elevation and minimum elevation for each section of the current Main Route. The average elevation is not the median between the highest and lowest point but a distance weighted average and best represents the typical elevation of each section.

Note that the average elevation from section GPT01 to GPT14 is consistently above 1000 m while from section GPT15 south-bound the average elevation never exceeds 1000 m. This reflects well the different character of the northern and the southern part. But don't assume wrongly that higher is better and more beautiful. The diversity makes this route network attractive.



Elevation Profile 3: GPT01 to GPT40 Maximum, Average and Minimum Elevation of Regular Route and Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 4: GPT01 to GPT40 Maximum, Average and Minimum Elevation of Regular Route and Regular Packrafting Route

2.3.9.2 Section Length and Estimated Hiking Time

The following two charts show the length of the regular route for each section from GPT01 to GPT40³⁵. In addition, both charts show the estimated hiking or moving time in hours. The estimated hiking time is the approximate time that someone needs to walk to get from the section start to the section finish on the regular hiking route. The estimated moving time refers to packrafting and is the combined walking and paddling time. These times are calculated with the factors shown in Table 30 and do not include the necessary breaks and rests.

To estimate the number of days required for a section divide the section hiking or moving time by the number of hours you normally walk or paddle each day. If you never measured your individual daily moving time be careful to not overestimate this number. A moving time of 5 hours per day is reasonable comfortable, achieving an average of 6 to 7 hours requires quite some focus and walking in average 8 hours per day is demanding. Moving consistently more than 8 hours per day is a tough athletic challenge. For more information to the calculation of distances and the concept of hiking and moving time see chapter [3.3.1 Calculation of Distances, Ascents, Descents and Estimated Hiking Times on page 606](#).

Trail Type	Speed
Unit	km per Hour
Bush Bashing (BB)	1.0 km/h
Cross Country Trekking (CC)	4.0 km/h
Horse or Hiking Trail (TL)	4.5 km/h
Minor Roads (MR)	5.0 km/h
Primary or Paved Road (PR)	5.0 km/h
River Packrafting (RI)	5.0 km/h
Lake Packrafting (LK)	3.5 km/h
Fjord Packrafting (FJ)	3.5 km/h
Unit	Minutes per 100 m
Ascent	12.0 min/100m
Descent	4.0 min/100m

Table 30: Calculation Factors for Hiking / Moving Time

³⁵ The hiking chart show the regular hiking route and the packrafting chart shows the regular packrafting route. Where both routes coincide in one regular route there both charts show the same values of the common regular route. Therefore the packrafting chart show also values for section without any packrafting.

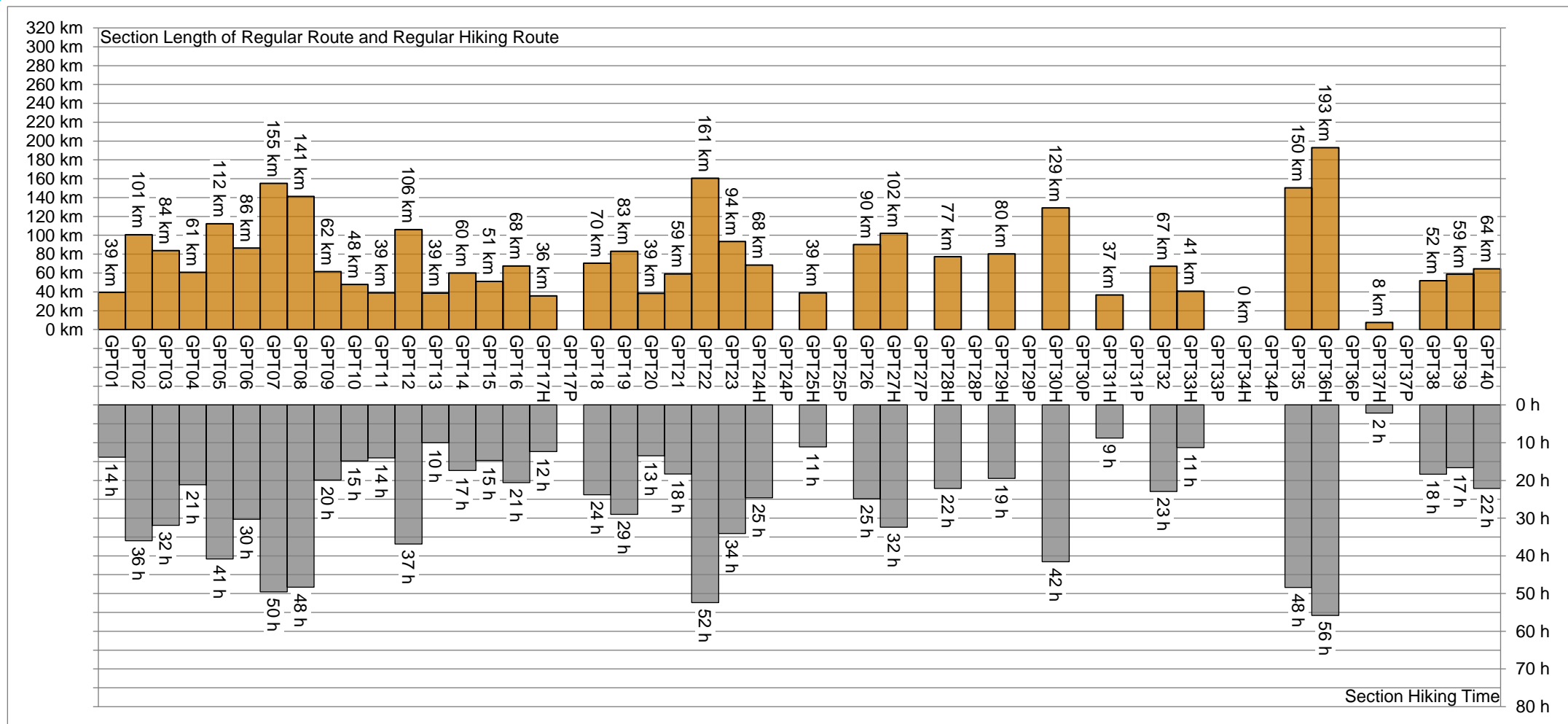


Chart 1: GPT01 to GPT40 Regular Hiking Route: Section Length and Estimated Hiking Time

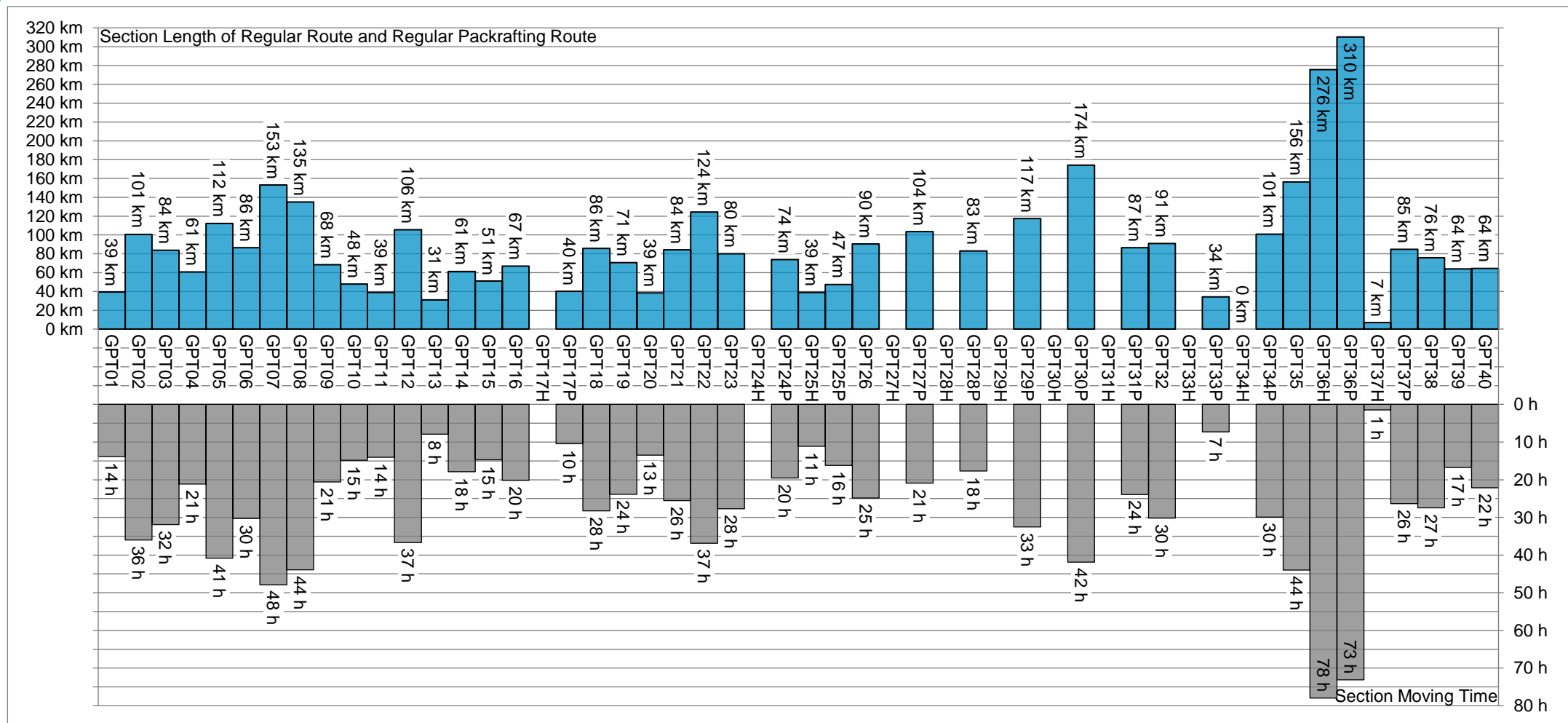


Chart 2: GPT01 to GPT40 Regular Packrafting Route: Section Length and Estimated Moving Time

2.3.9.3 Travel Timing Recommendation

Timing your hike correctly is essential and anything but trivial. Some sections are deeply covered in snow till late spring, others are not traversable during snow melt because rivers are dangerously swollen and some border crossings between Argentina and Chile are closed during parts of the year. Also, some intuitive assumptions are simply wrong. Many hikers first assume that the northern sections in the rather subtropical part of Chile are good for an early start but this is not the case.

The GPT is located on the southern hemisphere where seasons are inversed to the northern hemisphere. If you are familiar with timing your hikes in Europe or North America translate the seasons and the months.

Season	Winter			Spring			Summer			Autumn		
Northern Hemisphere	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Southern Hemisphere	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May

Table 31 Southern Hemisphere Seasons

Generally speaking December to March is the preferable time to hike the southern Andes but some sections are also traversable in spring and autumn. What complicates hiking in spring are remaining snow fields and high river levels from snow melt. In April the likelihood of blizzards with heavy snow increases in higher areas.

For packrafting an additional aspect needs to be considered: wind. Patagonia is (in)famous for the heavy enduring wind that blows particular strong during the summer. In spring and autumn calm periods are more frequent.

During summer you have plenty of daytime hours in particular in the far south. The opposite is the case in early spring and late

autumn. To provide some numbers: At the latitude of the Southern Patagonian Ice Field you have around midsummer more than 16 hours between sunrise and sunset. Fife month later towards the end of autumn the daytime shrinks to less than 9 hours.

I compiled an overview table that shows to the best of my knowledge when each section is normally traversable. This of cause comes with an uncertainty as conditions vary from year to year. After a snow-rich winter it will take longer for the snow to melt. A hot spring can accelerate this process but makes rivers impassable. And a couple of hot days and tempered nights in mid-summer can rise glacier streams to a level that they are unsafe to cross. To include this uncertainty, I'm using three categories:

Code	Meaning	Comment
N	Not Recommended	Traversing is not recommended i.e. due to dangerously swollen rivers or a substantially elevated risk of adverse weather i.e. blizzards.
C	Conditionally	In some years a traverse is feasible if conditions are favorable. Therefore hikers attempting a traverse should be prepared to back-track i.e. if a river is unsafe to ford. Large snow fields may need to be crossed and the likelihood of adverse weather i.e. blizzards is elevated.
Y	Normally Feasible	A traverse is normally feasible. But under adverse weather conditions a traverse may become unsafe i.e. after an extended period of heavy rain. Hikers should always consider the possibility to back-track in their preparation and when encountering unsafe conditions on the trail.

Table 7: Section Travel Timing Definition

This information is based on personal experiences, the recommendations of *arrieros* and settlers that live on or near the trail and accounts of other hikers. To further refine this timing recommendation every hiker that traverses a section particular early or particular late or makes any deviating experience is asked to share his expertise. Only a collaborated effort can provide this information with a high level of confidence.

Section Travel Timing Recommendations for Current Main Route from GPT01 to GPT40																																																				
Sep	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	C	N	C	N	C	C	N	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	N	C	C	C	Y	N	N	C	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	C	C	N	C	C	N					
Oct	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	C	C	C	N	C	C	C	N	C	C	C	C	C	N	C	C	C	Y	N	N	C	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	C	N	C	C	N	C	N				
Nov	C	N	C	C	N	N	N	N	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	Y	C	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	C	C	C	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	N	Y	C	C	Y	C	Y	Y	N			
Dec	Y	C	Y	Y	C	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	C	C	C	Y	N	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y	Y	C				
Jan	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Feb	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Mar	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Apr	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	C	Y	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	C			
May	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	C	C	C	N	C	Y	C	N	C	C	C	C	C	N	C	Y	Y	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	C	N	C	C	C	C	C	N			
Code	GPT01	GPT02	GPT03	GPT04	GPT05	GPT06	GPT07	GPT08	GPT09	GPT10	GPT11	GPT12	GPT13	GPT14	GPT15	GPT16	GPT17H	GPT17P	GPT18	GPT19	GPT20	GPT21	GPT22	GPT23	GPT24H	GPT24P	GPT25H	GPT25P	GPT26	GPT27H	GPT27P	GPT28H	GPT28P	GPT29H	GPT29P	GPT30H	GPT30P	GPT31H	GPT31P	GPT32	GPT33H	GPT33P	GPT34H	GPT34P	GPT35	GPT36H	GPT36P	GPT37H	GPT37P	GPT38	GPT39	GPT40
Section Name	Cerro Purgatorio	Mina El Teniente	Ríos Claros	Alto Huemul	Río Colorado	Volcán Descabezado	Laguna Dial	Volcán Chillan	Volcán Antuco	Laguna El Barco	Cerro Dedos	Río Rahue	Laguna Icalma	Volcán Solipulli	Curarrehue	Volcán Quetrupillan	Liquiñe	Netume	Lago Pirihueico	Volcán Puyehue	Volcán Antillanca	Lago Todos Los Santos	Cochamó	PN Lago Puelo	PN Los Alerces Tierra	PN Los Alerces Agua	Aldea Escolar	Lago Amutui Quimei	Carrenleufú	Lago Palena	Alto Río Palena	La Tapera	Bajo Río Palena	Río Cisnes	Valle Picacho	Coyhaique	Canal Puyuhuapi	Valle Simpson	Lagos de Aysen	Cerro Castillo	Puerto Ibañez	Río Ibañez	Ferry General Carrera	Lago General Carrera	RN Lago Jenimeni	Ruta De Los Pioneros	Río Baker	Lago O'Higgins	Penunsila La Florida	Glaciar Chico	Monte Fitz Roy	Glaciar Viedma

Table 7: Section Travel Timing Recommendations

2.3.9.4 Trail Type Composition

The GPT is an informal route network that consists of a diverse mix of trails, roads and cross country routes and optional packrafting as outlined in chapters [1.3 The GPT Route Network on page 23](#).

The trail type composition of the sections GPT01 to GPT40 are displayed in 3 charts on the following pages. This facilitates the planning and permits an educated choice of sections. It also supports selecting the appropriate method of travel (hiking or packrafting). The following trail types are differentiated:

Horse and Hiking Trails (TL): Mostly visible trail on any terrain i.e. in open landscape or forest. Trails are primarily used by animals and rarely made for hiking.

Minor and Two-Track Roads (MR): Any route that could be used or can be used by a vehicle regardless if this road or car track is open for public use or not. This category also includes abandoned roads that are not any more traversable by vehicles. Minor roads are without transit traffic. Hitch-hiking is rarely promising.

Primary or Paved Roads (PR): Public gravel or paved road with moderate transit traffic. Hitch-hiking is generally promising.

Cross Country Routes (CC): Route that passes through open landscape without a visible continuous trail but also without dense vegetation. Sporadic animal tracks might be visible but may be misleading.

Bush Bashing Routes (BB): Route that passes through overgrown terrain. Demanding and very slow advance.

Ferry and Boat Transfers (FY): Lake, river or fjord crossing with a ferry or a motor boat. Distances covered with a motorized boat are NOT included in the distance calculation but displayed for information only.

River Packrafting (RI): River downstream float with a packraft. One-Way only!

Lake Packrafting (LK): Lake crossing with a packraft. Normally Two-Way travel possible but the predominant wind may make one direction preferable.

Fjord Packrafting (FJ): Fjord paddling with a packraft. Normally Two-Way travel possible but the predominant wind may make one direction preferable. In fjords a good understanding of tides is essential as tidal flows can exceed the packrafting speed.

For further information to the trail types see also chapters:

- [3.2.7 Trail Types on page 574](#)
- [3.2.7.1 Hiking Routes on Land on page 574](#)
- [3.2.7.2 Ferries on page 580](#)
- [3.2.7.3 Packrafting Routes on Water on page 581](#)

2.3.9.5 Section Attractiveness and Difficulty Rating

The attractiveness and difficulty rating shall help hikers and packrafters to make an educated selection of the sections and to choose wisely where to hike and where to packraft.

The four hikers that first walked and packrafted most of the trail³⁶ evaluated each section in respect of attractiveness and difficulty. This evaluation only compares the 40 sections of the Main Route in between each other (relative comparison) and does not attempt to compare the GPT with other long-distance trails.

Two grades from 1 to 5 are given to each section, one grade for attractiveness and one grade for difficulty. The 5 stands for the most attractive or the most difficult category. The grades of all 40 hiking sections of the Main Route are adjusted that the average is a precise 3. This adjustment makes a relative comparison of the 40 sections more reliable.

For sections with substantial packrafting an additional packrafting grading is given. This grading is based on the same hiking scale to facilitate a comparison between hiking or packrafting the same section. Since packrafting is generally more attractive and more challenging the average of the packrafting grades exceeds 3.



Picture 102: Santiago de Chile: Reviewing our individual experiences of the GPT to grade all sections of the Main Route. Image: Bethany Hughes

³⁶ [Bethany Hughes and Lauren Reed from www.her-odyssey.org](#), my wife Meylin Ubilla and me the author

Because this is only a relative comparison an attractiveness of 1 or 2 does not mean "ugly" and "not worth to walk", it simply means that the majority of the other sections are more attractive. And since several sections are mind-blowing beautiful "competition" is tough and a number of sections simply must end up in these lower categories even if they are worthwhile hiking. Equally a difficulty grade of 1 or 2 does not mean "a piece of cake". Depending on the weather even such a section can become threatening and these easier sections may have shorter quite demanding parts.

Such an evaluation of the attractiveness and challenge is obviously subjective. Rather random factors like the weather when hiking or a particular memorable encounter with a resident on the trail influences the judgement. But regardless of this, the four persons that made the initial evaluation expressed no substantial discrepancies and assigned identical or similar grades to most sections. The evaluation of the attractiveness considers not only the landscape and the trail itself but also the cultural experience with the local population as this trail comes only with the people that live on it and you can't have just the trail by itself.

The evaluation of the difficulty and challenge considers the terrain, the trail condition, exposure to weather, remoteness, section length and resupply possibilities along the trail. This evaluation is based on the regular route. The individual experience will greatly vary with the actual weather that someone is exposed while hiking or packrafting. Also, some optional routes are much more demanding compared to the regular route. Keep this in mind when making you choices.

The not yet fully "ground-truthed" packrafting exploration sections are particular challenging. To caution adventurers that wish to explore these sections a difficulty grade of 6 on a scale from 1 to 5 is given to these expedition routes. On the Main Route these exploration packrafting sections can be bypassed by using either the hiking section or taking a ferry.

2.3.9.6 Regular Hiking Route

The following two charts show the trail type composition and the attractiveness and difficulty rating of the regular hiking route from GPT01 to GPT40.

The most attractive sections are on the northern half and on the southern quarter of the Main Route. Therefore I suggest to attempt first sections GPT06 to GPT22. If you have time, energy and money left pic additional sections in the far south from GPT32 to GPT40. See also [2.3.7 Hiking and Packrafting Suggestions on page 236](#).

If walking with connecting footsteps is not relevant to you and you consider skipping less attractive parts then read the considerations following the two charts.

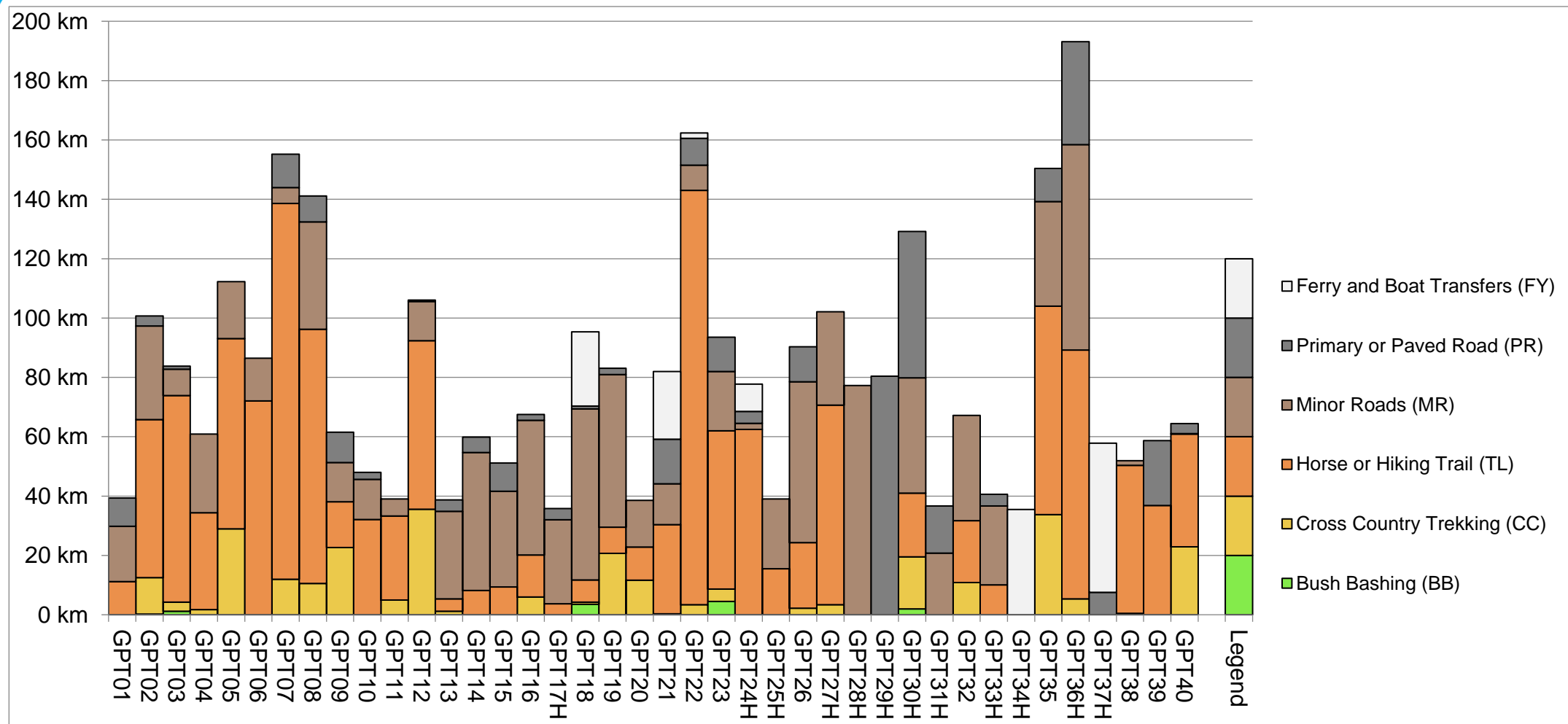


Chart 3: GPT01 to GPT40 Section Trail Type Composition of Regular Hiking Route

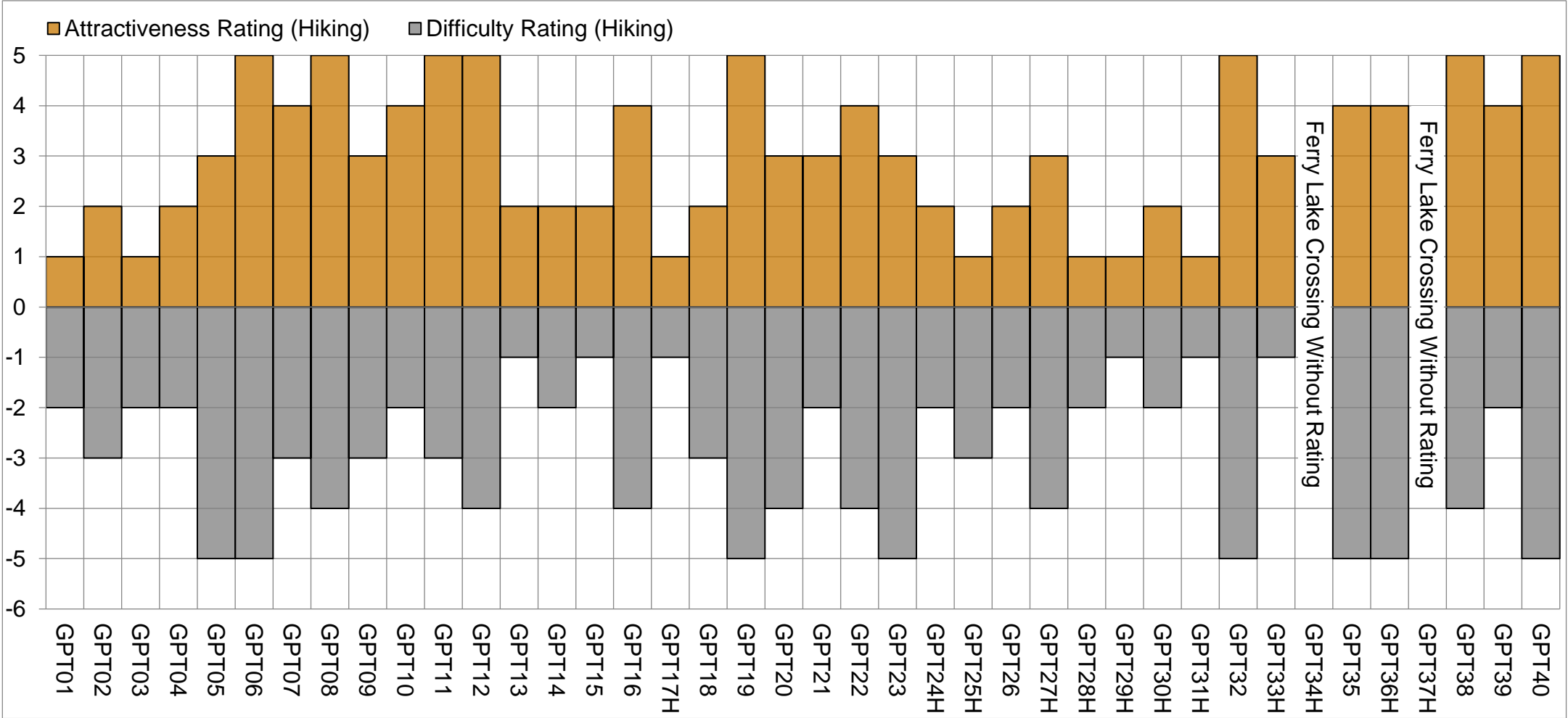


Chart 4: GPT01 to GPT40 Section Evaluation of Regular Hiking Route

The first 4 sections of the GPT in the *Precordillera* do not belong to the highlights of the GPT. In addition the traversability of section GPT05 is difficult to predict. During the summer high temperatures can rise one glacier-feed river to a level that fording this river gets dangerous. Therefore, starting or finishing a hike at GPT06 is a practical option in particular when coming to Greater Patagonian for one season only.

The three sections GPT13, GPT14 and GPT15 guide through lightly populated Pehuenche areas. The route is generally easy walking and navigation is straight-forward but the regular route of these three sections lacks the wild beauty of the more remote areas. If you came to Greater Patagonia with limited time and you do not insist in connecting footsteps you may consider bypassing sections GPT13, GPT14 and GPT15 by bus. To bypass section GPT13 and GPT15 also hitchhiking is feasible. Should you love climbing up volcanos don't skip section GPT14 as this section passes next to the mind-blowing impressive volcano Sollipulli. If you get up the optional route to the crater rim you can look into a 4 km wide glacier filled crater.

Trying to bus around the less scenic section GPT17H will take about as long as hiking this section (around 2 days), so either walk GPT17H or skip the two section GPT17H and GPT18 together. This also prevent potential right-of-way disputes on GPT18.

The regular hiking route of sections GPT23 and GPT24H was severely affected by wild fires in 2015 and 2016 and became partly overgrown in recent years when the Argentine government stopped funding the Huella Andina. Packrafters can bypass most obstacles on water but hikers will struggle with officially closed trails and dense vegetation on currently unused hiking trails. Therefore hikers and in particular solo-hikers should contemplate with skipping sections GPT23 and GPT24H.

The sections GPT28H to GPT31H are just of interest for die-hard thru-hikers without a packraft that wish to walk the entire length

of the GPT with connecting footsteps during several seasons. To anyone else I strongly recommend to bus through these four sections. This 323 km long stretch is nearly 90% road walking with some attractive trails on GPT30H. There is not a lot of traffic on most of these roads but it's a punishing mental test for hikers that need attractive and diverse trails to enjoy walking. I have some vague information about more scenic horse trails in this area but these trails might be overgrown and need to be investigated first.

2.3.9.7 Regular Packrafting Route with Exploration Sections

The next pair of charts show the trail type composition and the attractiveness and difficulty rating of all packrafting route including all six packrafting explorations sections of the Main Route. These charts assume packrafting all possible regular packrafting routes regardless if the packrafting proportion makes carrying such an inflatable boat advisable or not. This shall facilitate that each packrafter judges himself where carrying a packraft makes sense to him.

You can clearly see in the trail type composition chart that the packrafting distance on sections GPT01 to GPT16 is marginal. The packrafting proportion is under 5% making a packraft more burden than benefit on these 16 sections. Therefore I suggest leaving the packraft in a safe location or better start directly with GPT17P. There are enough epic packrafting routes south of GPT17P to fill an entire season. But have a look on the charts and make your choice yourself.

Note, that the six packrafting explorations sections have a difficulty degree of 6 on a scale from 1 to 5. After the two charts you find a brief description of the particular challenges of these six explorations sections and how to bypass these sections on more feasible and better plannable routes.

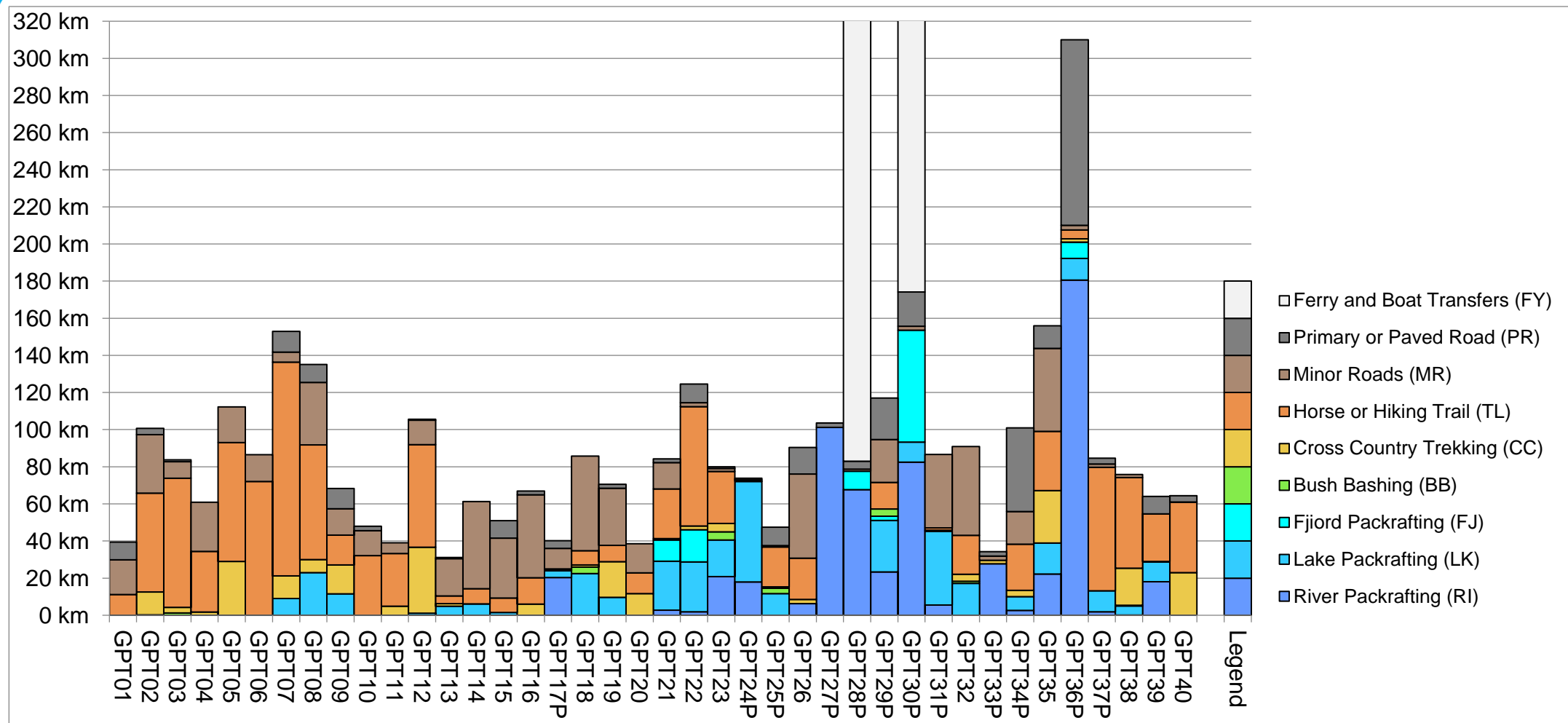


Chart 5: GPT01 to GPT40 Trail Type Composition of Regular Packrafting Route including Exploration Sections

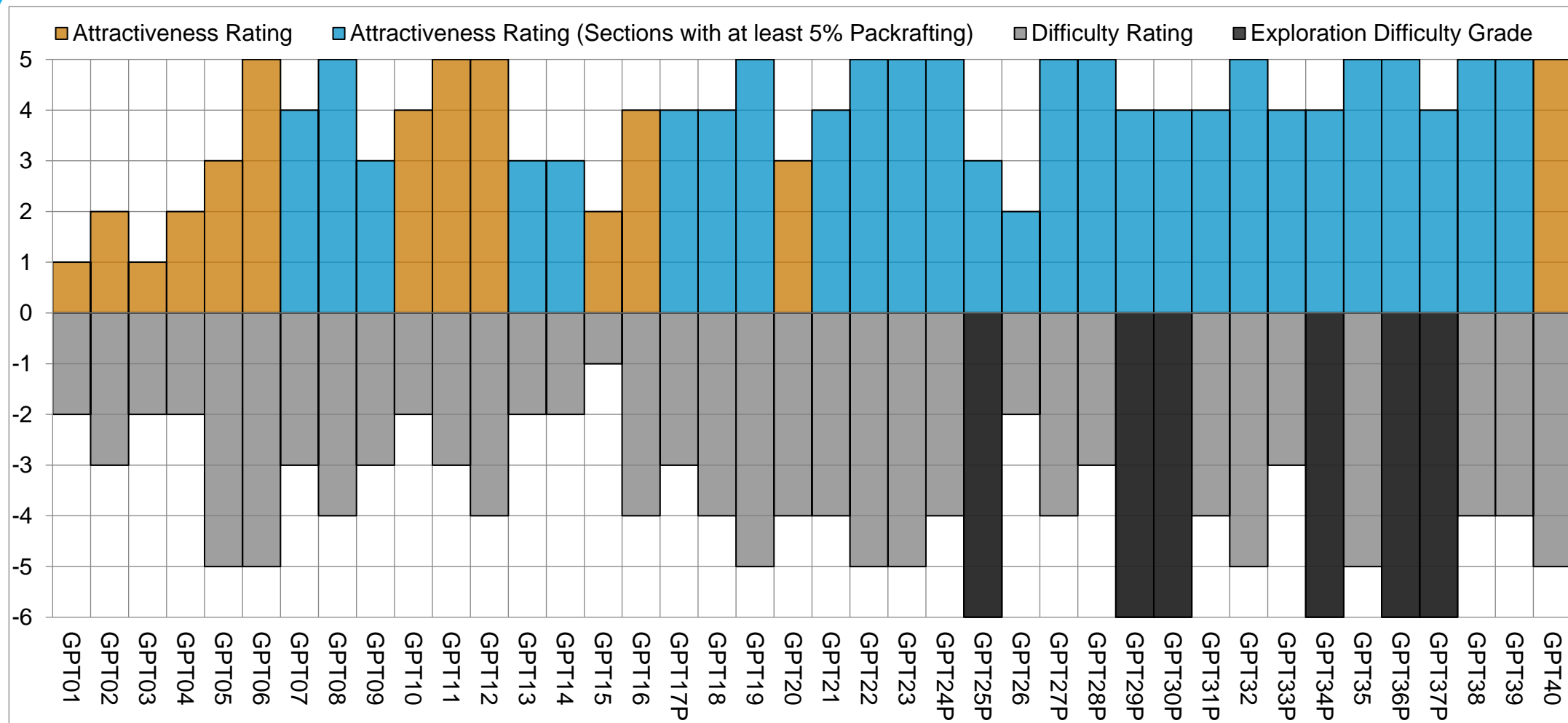


Chart 6: GPT01 to GPT40 Section Evaluation of Regular Packrafting Route including Exploration Sections

The exploration route of section GPT25P requires a packraft crossing of the artificial lake Amutui Quimei. This lake is infamous for its gale-force wind and high waves. The lake basically forms a gap through the main mountain range making it a wind channel. Especially at the eastern end of the lake waves can build up to several meters height. This makes a packraft crossing very challenging and is expected to require waiting for a low-wind window. Also the old trails became partly overgrown because the risen sea level flooded the old land connection. To avoid waiting and bush-bashing bypass this section by hiking GPT25H instead.

To my knowledge sections GPT29P and GPT30P have not been traversed by packraft on the suggested route yet. Section GPT29P requires some demanding bush-bashing, it crosses very remote lakes and it requires floating down practically unknown rivers making it nearly impossible to turn back on the same route if getting stuck half-way. GPT30P means paddling a long, wide-open fjord with often strong wind and limited escape options and floating down a narrow river that has plenty of obstacles in the water. And both exploration sections are in a particular rainy part of Patagonia with an annual precipitation of around 4000 mm. It can be an epic adventure for experienced packrafters that are home in Patagonia but for most first-time visitors these exploration sections can quickly turn into nightmare. Also, these two sections are only feasible northbound and require flipping the travel direction. These two sections can be skipped by simply not turning northbound after arriving with the ferry in Puerto Chacabuco which is the finish point of GPT28P and the starting point of GPT31P.

Section GPT34P requires a packraft crossing of the Lago General Carrera. Similar to the lake Amutui Quimei, the Lago General Carrera is an open gap in the main mountain range making it a wind channel. Wind and waves can get that powerful that the big ferry between Puerto Ingeniero Ibanez and Chile Chico gets occasionally suspended. So crossing Lago General Carrera by packraft at the 3 km wide narrow requires more patience than bravery if you want to make it to the opposite shore alive since you may need to wait days for a low-wind window. To avoid this uncertainty simply take the ferry from Puerto Ingeniero Ibanez and

Chile Chico. This ferry crossing is section GPT34H.

Section GPT36P incorporates the lower Río Baker and was packrafted several times. A few powerful rapids need to be portered and head wind can be fierce especially towards the mouth where river flows into the fjord at Caleta Tortel. The alternative section GPT36H has also pretty good packrafting proportion so both packrafting routes are very attractive but GPT36P with the Río Baker appears a bit more demanding.

The exploration packrafting section GPT37P was to my knowledge not hiked and packrafted yet. The investigation of this route promises to be a true adventure. The mountainous Peninsula Florida is roughly 40 km long and 15 km wide and on three sides enclosed by wind-battered Lago O'Higgins. A handful of settlers that grow cattle live on the shore and to move these cattle out for sale a few rarely used trails are maintained. On the southern end of the peninsula is a 4 km wide narrow of the Lago O'Higgins. Strong wind makes this narrow most of the time impassable but in a low-wind window the opposite shore may be reached in roughly one hour by packraft. Anyone attempting this needs to carry plenty of extra food and be patient to wait for a rare opportunity to paddle this windy lake.

2.3.9.8 Balanced Combination of Hiking and Packrafting

The previous two charts and the comments to the six packrafting exploration sections make it perceivable that this packrafting route is only an option for highly experienced packrafters that knows this region from previous expeditions. Therefore I conclude this chapter with my proposal for a balanced combination of hiking and packrafting on the Main Route.

This balanced combination suggests walking without a packraft from GPT01 to GPT16 by following the regular hiking route on these northern sections. It simply makes little sense to haul packrafting gear over 1200 km to use it just on 57 km.

From section GPT17P to GPT39 packrafting is clearly the more attractive option that provides a diverse experience of Patagonia. But to avoid that the adventure becomes an overly demanding and unpredictable expedition the exploration packrafting section should be replaced by hiking sections or skipped. These hiking section still contain plenty of packrafting routes but if the conditions are not favourable for packrafting you can often keep walking. This balanced combination still contains a few less attractive bits and pieces, but these are mostly not that long and just remind you how epic the majority of this route is.

Section GPT40 is an impressive finish but on this circuit with long steep ascents and descents a packraft is just a burden. So better leave your packrafting gear in custody in El Chalten or carefully hide it near the trail head to which this circuit returns at the end.

This balanced combination of hiking and packrafting sections is the authors suggestion for anyone with packrafting gear and the time to explore and appreciate Greater Patagonia in two or three seasons.

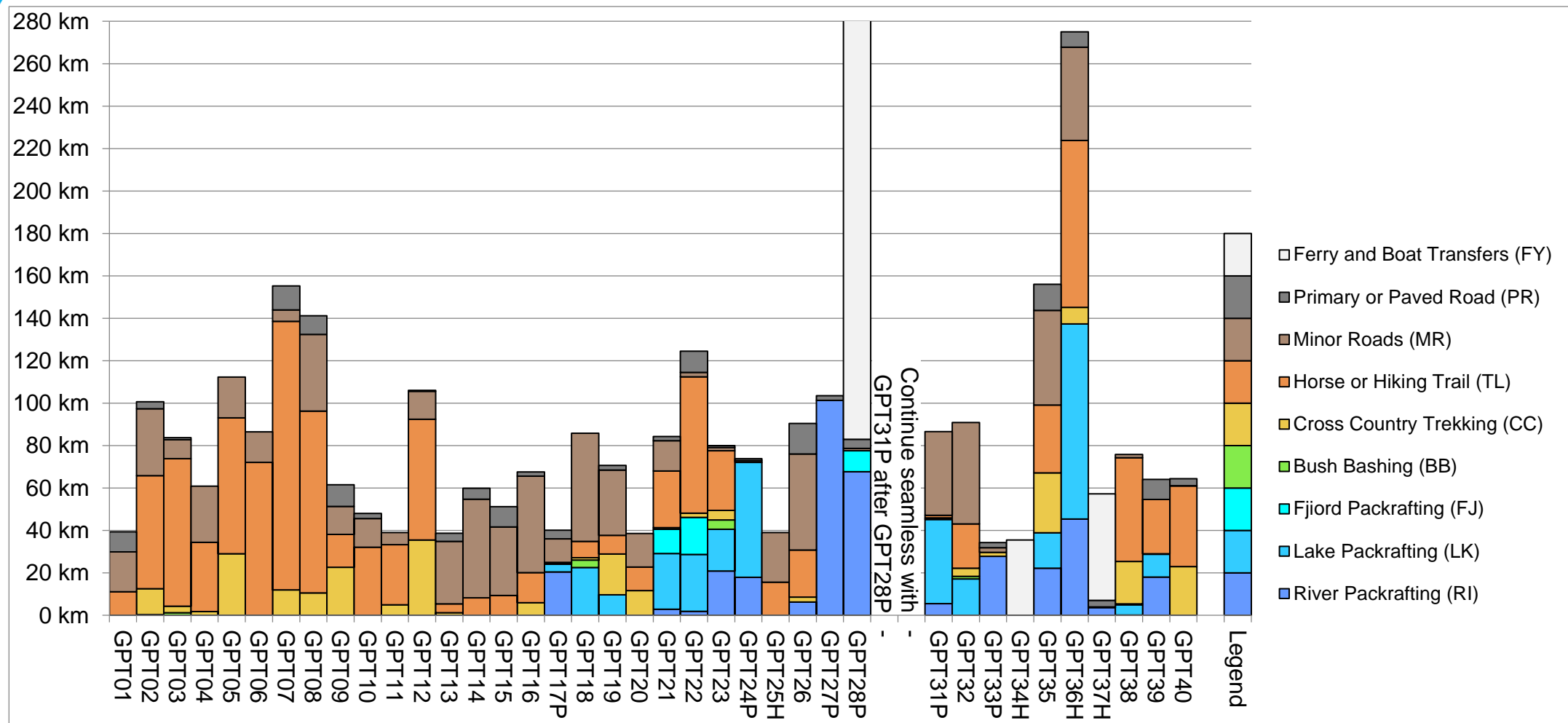


Chart 7: GPT01 to GPT40 Trail Type Composition of Balanced Combination of Regular Hiking and Regular Packrafting Route

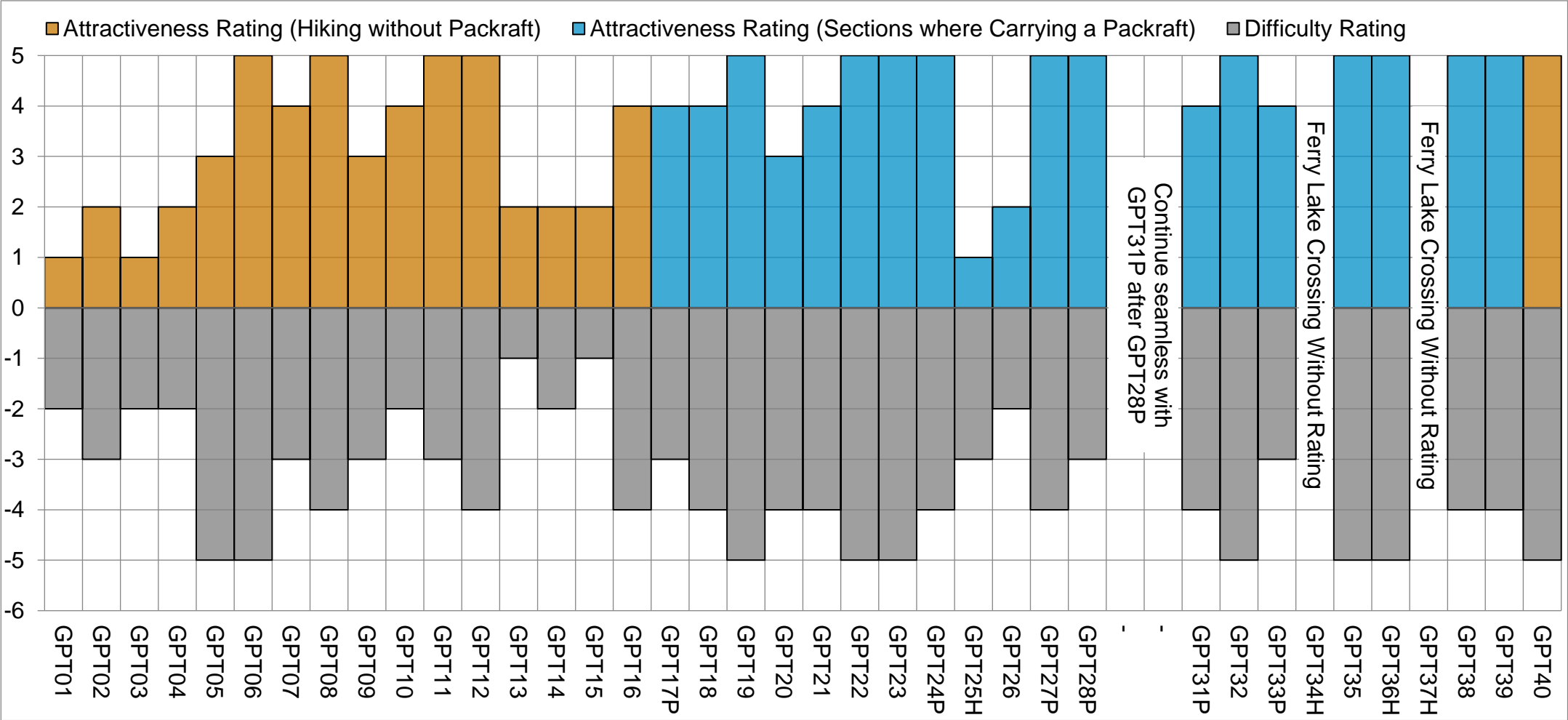


Chart 8: GPT01 to GPT40 Section Evaluation of Route with Balanced Combination of Hiking and Packrafting

2.3.10 Choosing your Sections of the Packrafting Specials

Even if some sections of the Packrafting Specials can be hiked completely I see little benefit for hikers in opting for these sections. These walkable sections end in locations from where hikers need to bus or road-walk long distances to connect with other hiking sections. Therefore hikers can move on to chapter [2.3.11 Section Analysis Tables and Statistics on page 273](#) expect they wish to be teased into packrafting.

On sections GPT70P to GPT92P packrafters can explore impressive rivers, lakes, fjords, mountains and glaciers that are not accessible without a boat. The different sections of the Packrafting Specials have quite different characters. Some don't pose particular difficulties while others can only be traversed in a demanding expedition. The right choice of sections from the Packrafting Specials depends therefore on the experience level and the appetite for adventure. Also you can't assemble these sections as you wish but need to combine them thoughtfully. So instead of discussing these Packrafting Specials section by section I will outline the character, benefits and challenges of feasible combinations.

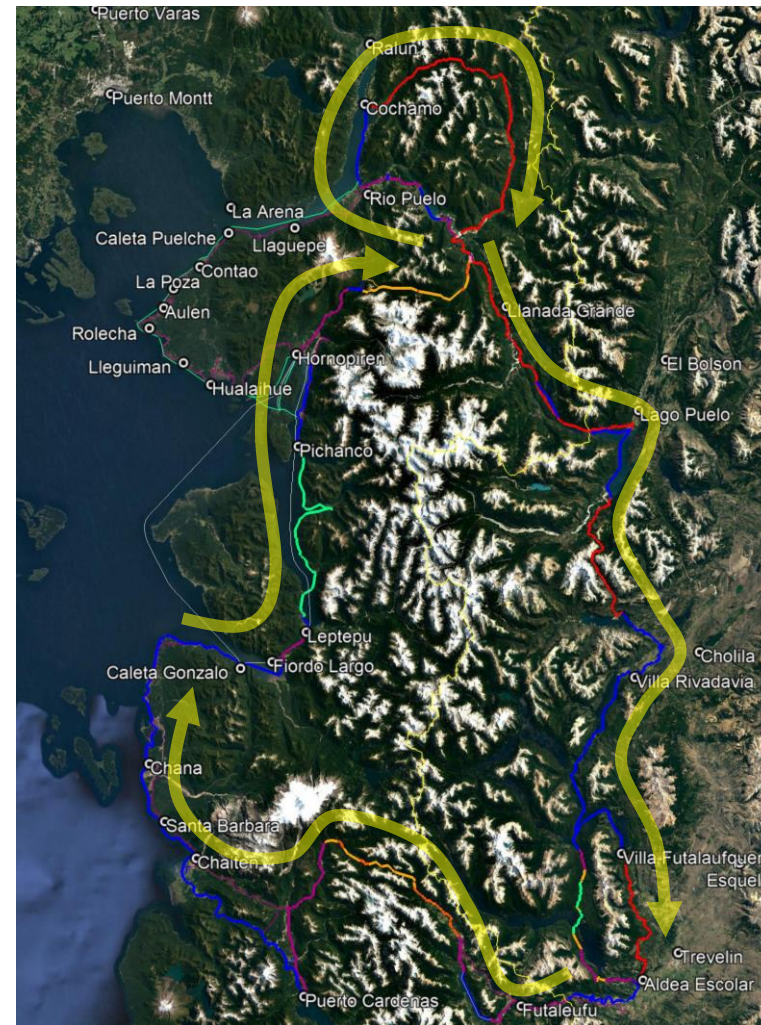
2.3.10.1 Central Patagonian Packrafting Circuit (GPT70P to GPT78P)

Six sections of the Packrafting Specials (GPT70P, GPT71P, GPT74P, GPT76P, GPT77P, GPT78P) can be combined with four sections of the Main Route (GPT22 to GPT25P) into an 800 km long packrafting circuit³⁷. Roughly 60% of the distance is on water and I estimate that the full circuit can be paddled and walked in approximately 8 weeks³⁸. This circuit passes Cochamó, El Bolson, Villa Lago Futalaufquen, Futaleufú, Chaiten and Hornopiren and is only feasible in clockwise direction. Any of these towns makes a suitable start and finish point.

This circuit combines exposed fjord packrafting with demanding bush-bashing and rewards with epic river and lake paddling. Weather will be volatile especially on the western half and some waiting time for suitable weather must be budgeted. On the more remote parts of the circuit you will not see other humans for days but on other parts of the route you will regularly meet settlers that make a living in with a combination of live stock breeding and homestead farming. This makes this circuit an authentic experience of the land the people of central Patagonia.

³⁷ It is actually not a simple circuit like a 0 but a 8 with a tiny head and big belly.

³⁸ This estimated duration includes an allowance for waiting for suitable weather and some rest and resupply days.



Picture 103: Central Patagonian Packrafting Circuit

2.3.10.2 Main Route Packrafting Variations (GPT70P to GPT76P)

Alternatively, some Packrafting Specials can integrate into a southbound journey that generally follows the Main Route. This is of interest for packrafters that want to incorporate big chunks of additional packrafting without following necessarily a single continuous route³⁹. So, this option is attractive for packrafters that don't feel an urge to get as fast and as far as possible south and that don't mind taking occasionally a bus or a hitchhike. It's for gourmet packrafters that want to assemble their route more freely to combine some of the best and diverse packrafting of Patagonia into customized journey without self-imposed restrictions and prohibitions.

³⁹ Creating a continuous southbound route with some of the Packrafting Specials is possible but this requires some less attractive road walking.



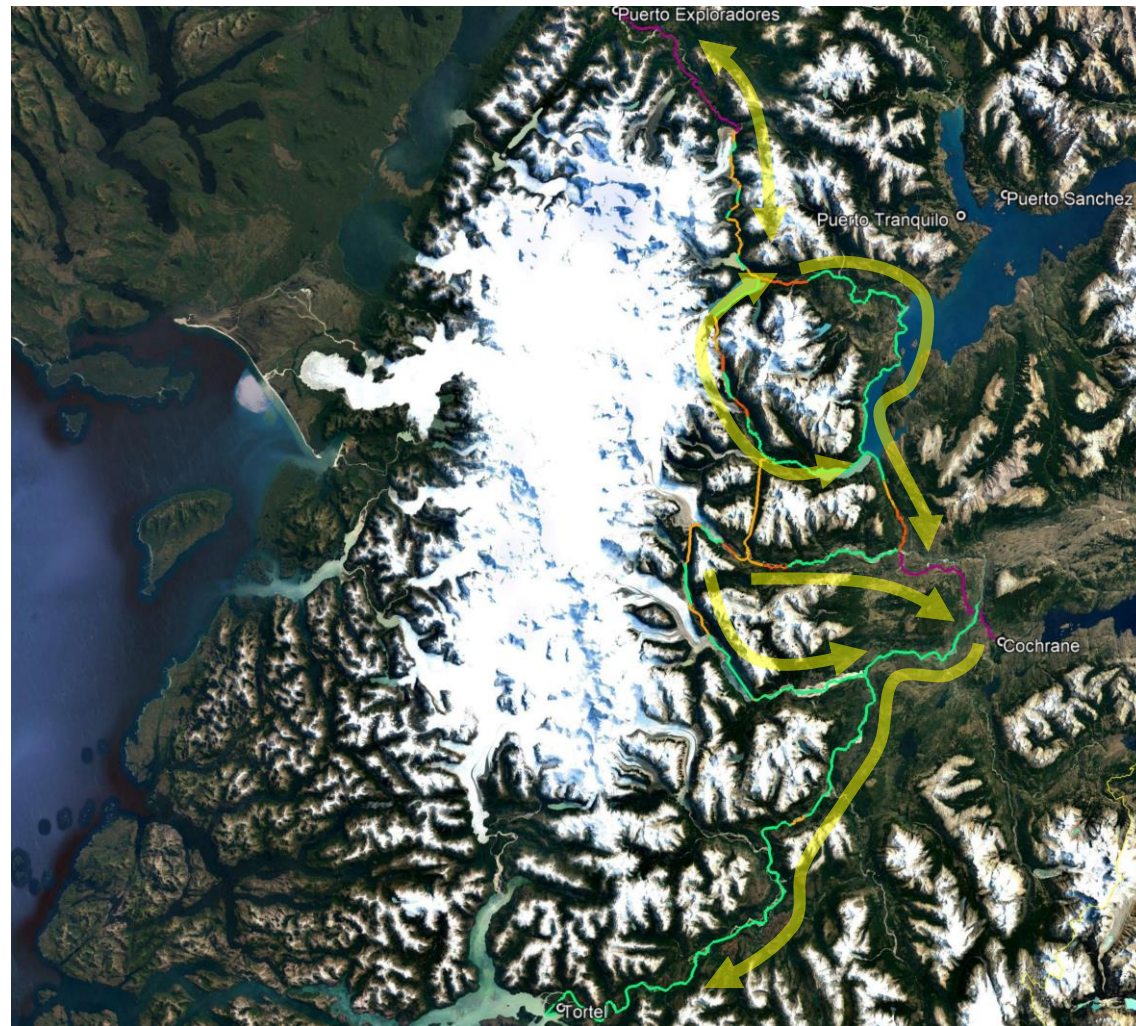
Picture 104: Main Route Packrafting Variations

2.3.10.3 Northern Patagonian Ice Field Traverse (GPT80P to GPT92P)

The two traverses east and west of the Northern Patagonian Ice Field are demanding expeditions. So even if sections GPT80P to GPT92P are connected with the Main Route they are not a variation of a southbound journey on the Main Route but difficult challenges on their own. Only a small number of people attempted these traverses so far and very limited information is available. Only experienced packrafters that are familiar with Patagonia should contemplate with these sections and aborting the attempt is more likely than a successful full traverse.

The eastern route consists of sections GPT80P to GPT83P⁴⁰ and is right on the eastern edge of the Northern Patagonian Ice Field. This traverse requires crossing glacier lakes full of big blocks of ice, packrafting down glacier feed rivers and crossing wind-beaten lakes. A full traverse involves also long tiresome bush-bashing, climbing very

⁴⁰ This is section group O: Campo de Hielo Norte (Monte).

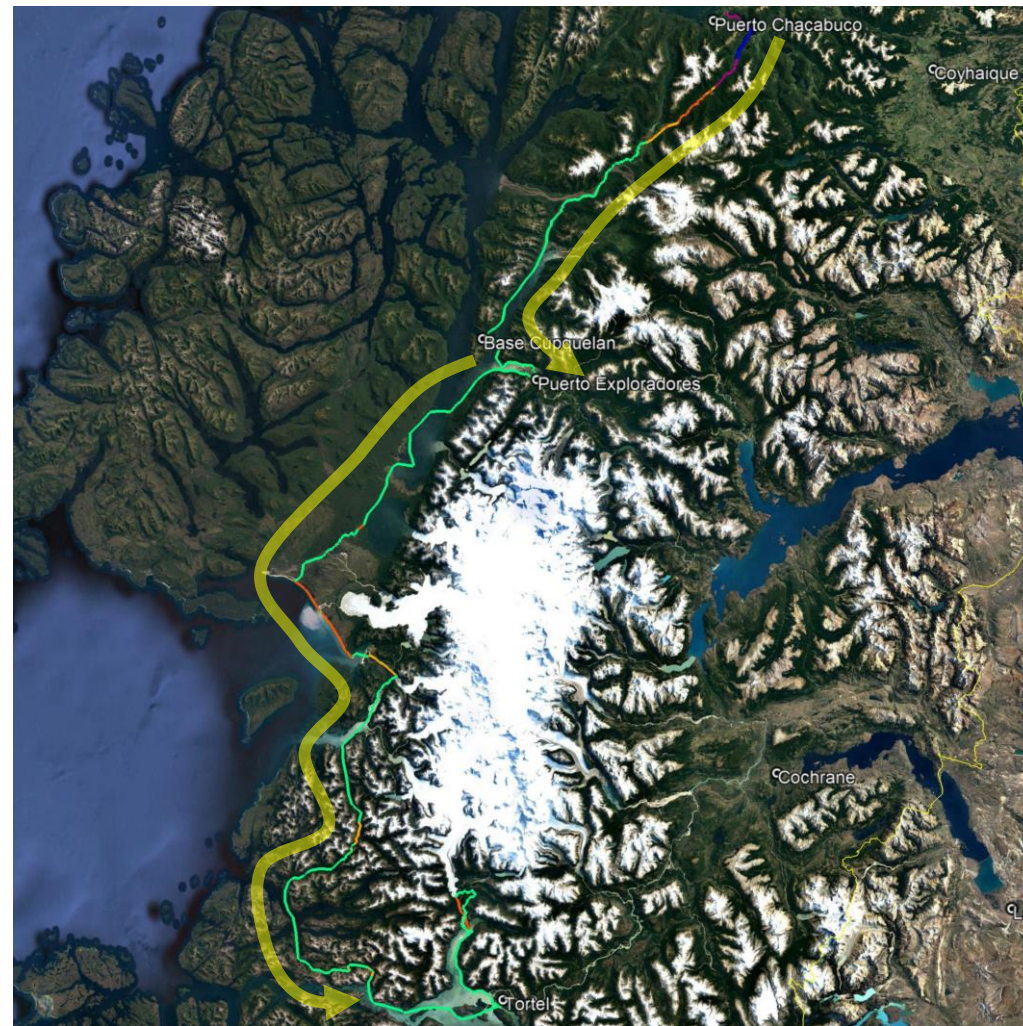


Picture 105: Northern Patagonian Ice Field Traverse (Eastern Option)

steep and exposed passes and crossing glaciers. Some of the valleys leading to the Northern Patagonian Ice Field are used as grazing land so you might find occasionally trails but to resupply you need to leave the traverse to reach the settlements quite a bit further east. Therefore, I do not suggest attempting a full traverse but rather tackle individual sections and adopt your route as go. Attempting one or two of these sections is adventure enough and if you still have the appetite for more adventure you can seamlessly add a float on the Río Baker (section GPT36P).

The western route consists of sections GPT90P, GPT91P and GPT92P⁴¹ and snakes mostly through the fjords on the western edge of the Northern Patagonian Ice Field. This is the most exposed and isolated sub-region of the entire GPT network. Take section GPT90P or GPT92P as a proving ground before attempting section GPT91P. Each of the three sections is an expedition on their own and should be planned and prepared as such.

⁴¹ This is section group P: Campo de Hielo Norte (Mar).



Picture 106: Central Patagonian Packrafting Circuit (Western Option)

2.3.11 Section Analysis Tables and Statistics

A detailed tabular analysis of all sections is in the Appendix in chapter [3.3 Section Statistics starting on page 606](#).

- [Table 130: Section Location and Section Planning Status](#)
- [Table 131: Section Start, Finish and Section Sequence](#)
- [Table 132: Hiking Travel Direction](#)
- [Table 133: Packrafting Travel Direction](#)
- [Table 134: Section Travel Timing Recommendation](#)
- [Table 135: Hiking Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Hiking Time](#)
- [Table 136: Hiking Route Composition](#)
- [Table 137: Packrafting Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Moving Time](#)
- [Table 138: Packrafting Route Composition](#)
- [Table: Section Attractiveness and Difficulty Rating to be issued.](#)
- [Table: Options Overview to be issued.](#)

2.4 Sections Information

2.4.1 Terminology

Reference to definition of section in chapter 1.

Reference to regular route in chapter 3.

Explanation to of all terms used in the summary table and trail type composition table.

Table width 154,5 mm (Textfield 155 mm).

GPT01: Cerro Purgatorio		
Group	A: Precordillera	
Region	Chile: Region Metropolitano (V)	
Start	Santiago, Metro Puente Alto	
Finish	El Melocotón	
Status	Published & Verified, To be Recorded by GPS	
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Conditionally: Nov, Apr)	
Packraft	Only Burden	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	1/5	No Rating
Difficulty	2/5	No Rating
Distance	39.4 km 14 h	39.4 km 14 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Previous Section		Next Section
Start		Alternative Section
GPT02		-

Table 32: GPT01 Section Summary

Table 2.

GPT01: Cerro Purgatorio				
	Hiking		Packrafting	
Total	39.4 km	14 h	39.4 km	14 h
Hiking (RR&RH)			39.4 km	100.0%
Packrafting (RR&RP)			-	-
Bush-Bashing (BB)	-	-	-	-
Cross-Country (CC)	-	-	-	-
Trails (TL)	11.1 km	28.3%	11.1 km	28.3%
Minor Roads (MR)	18.7 km	47.5%	18.7 km	47.5%
Primary Roads (PR)	9.5 km	24.2%	9.5 km	24.2%
Ferry (FY)	-	-	-	-
River (RI)			-	-
Lake (LK)			-	-
Fjord (FJ)			-	-
Investigation (I)	(7.6 km)	(19.2%)	(7.6 km)	(19.2%)
Exploration (EXP)	-	-	-	-
Options	126 km			

Table 33: GPT01 Section Summary

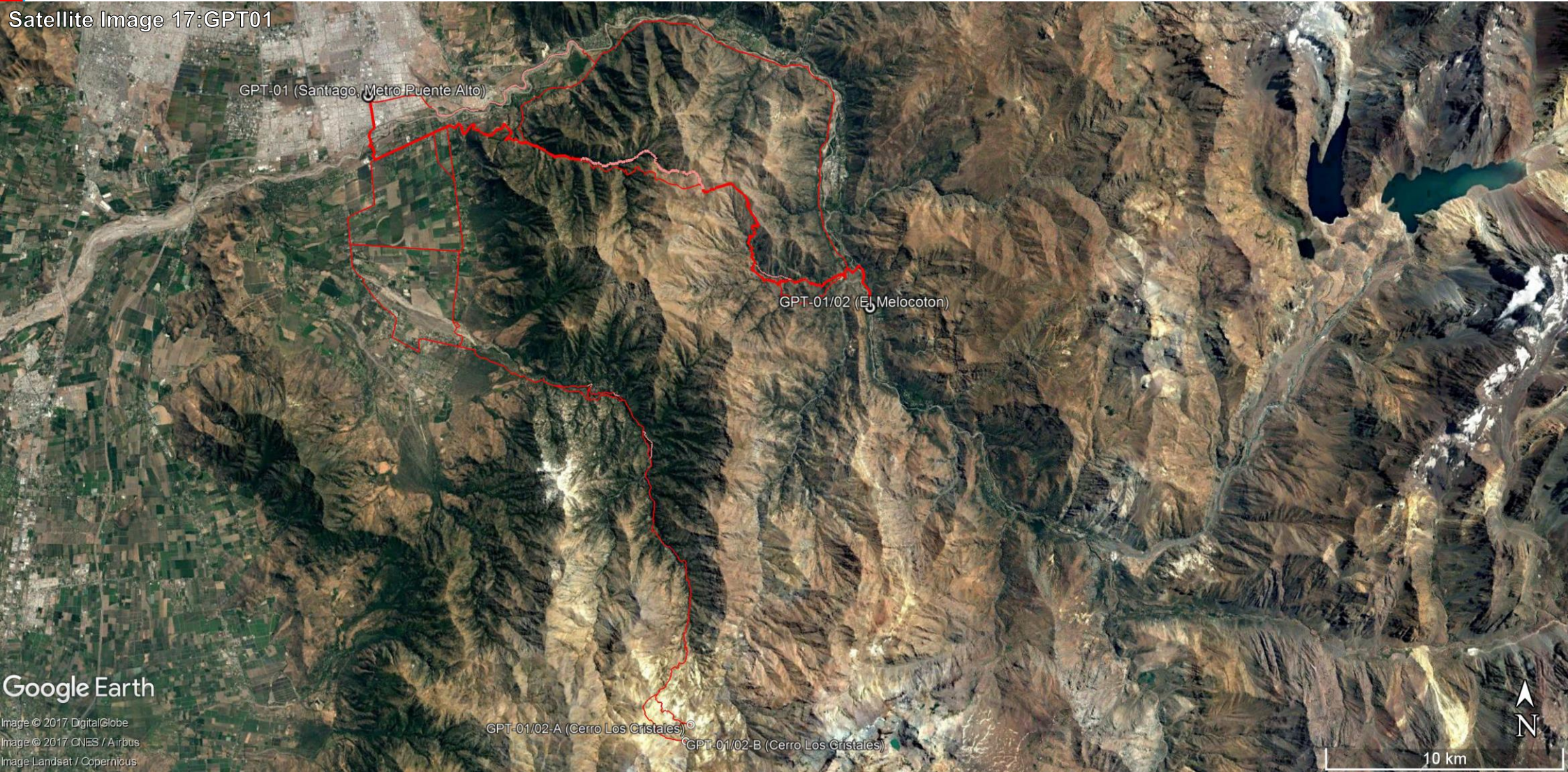
2.4.2 GPT01: Cerro Purgatorio

To be issued.

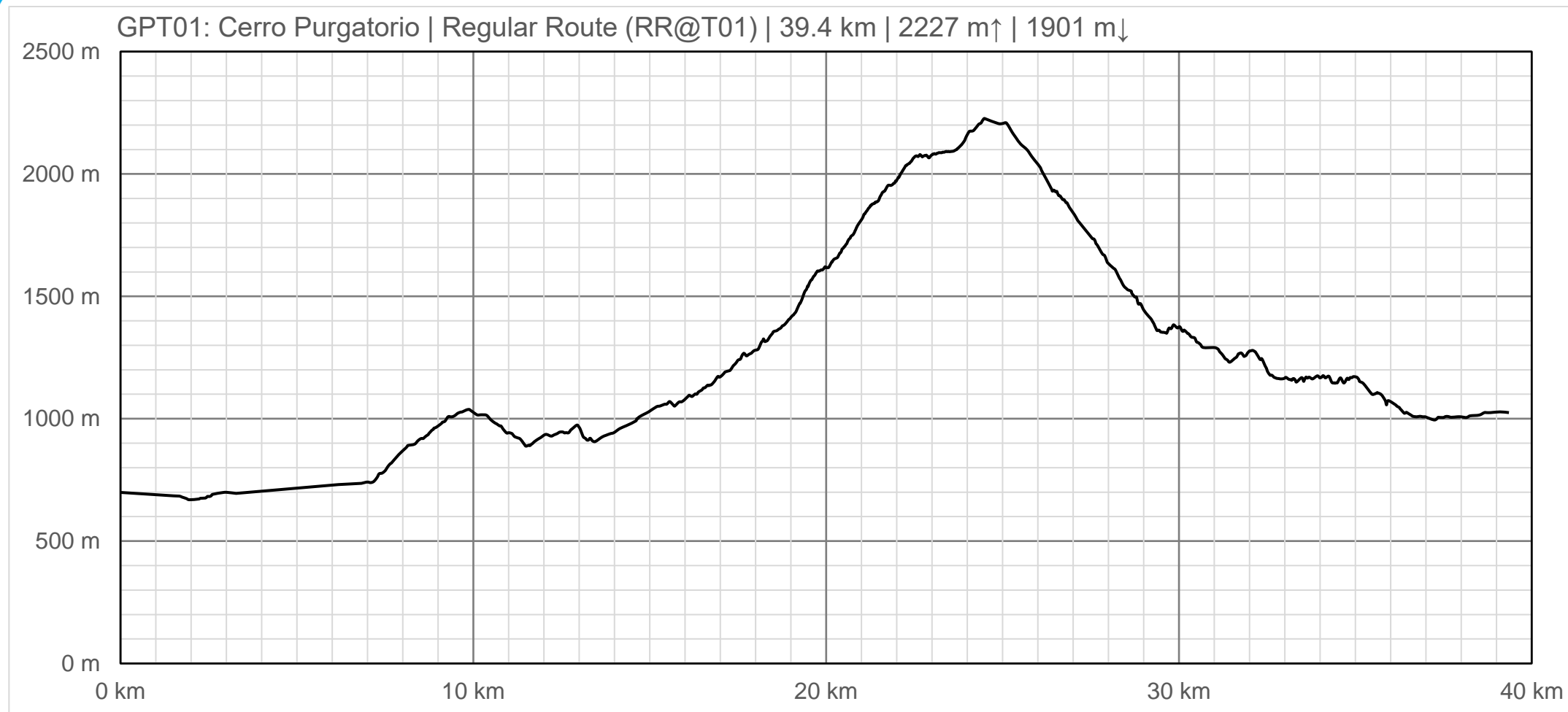
GPT01: Cerro Purgatorio		
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Conditionally: Nov, Apr)	
Packraft	Only Burden	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	1/5	No Rating
Difficulty	2/5	No Rating
Distance	39.4 km 14 h	39.4 km 14 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified, To be Recorded by GPS	
Zone	A: Zona Precordillera	
Region	Chile: Region Metropolitano (V)	
Start	Santiago, Metro Puente Alto	
Finish	El Melocotón	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
Start	GPT02	-

Table 34: GPT01 Section Summary

Satellite Image 17:GPT01



Google Earth



Elevation Profile 5: GPT01 Regular Route

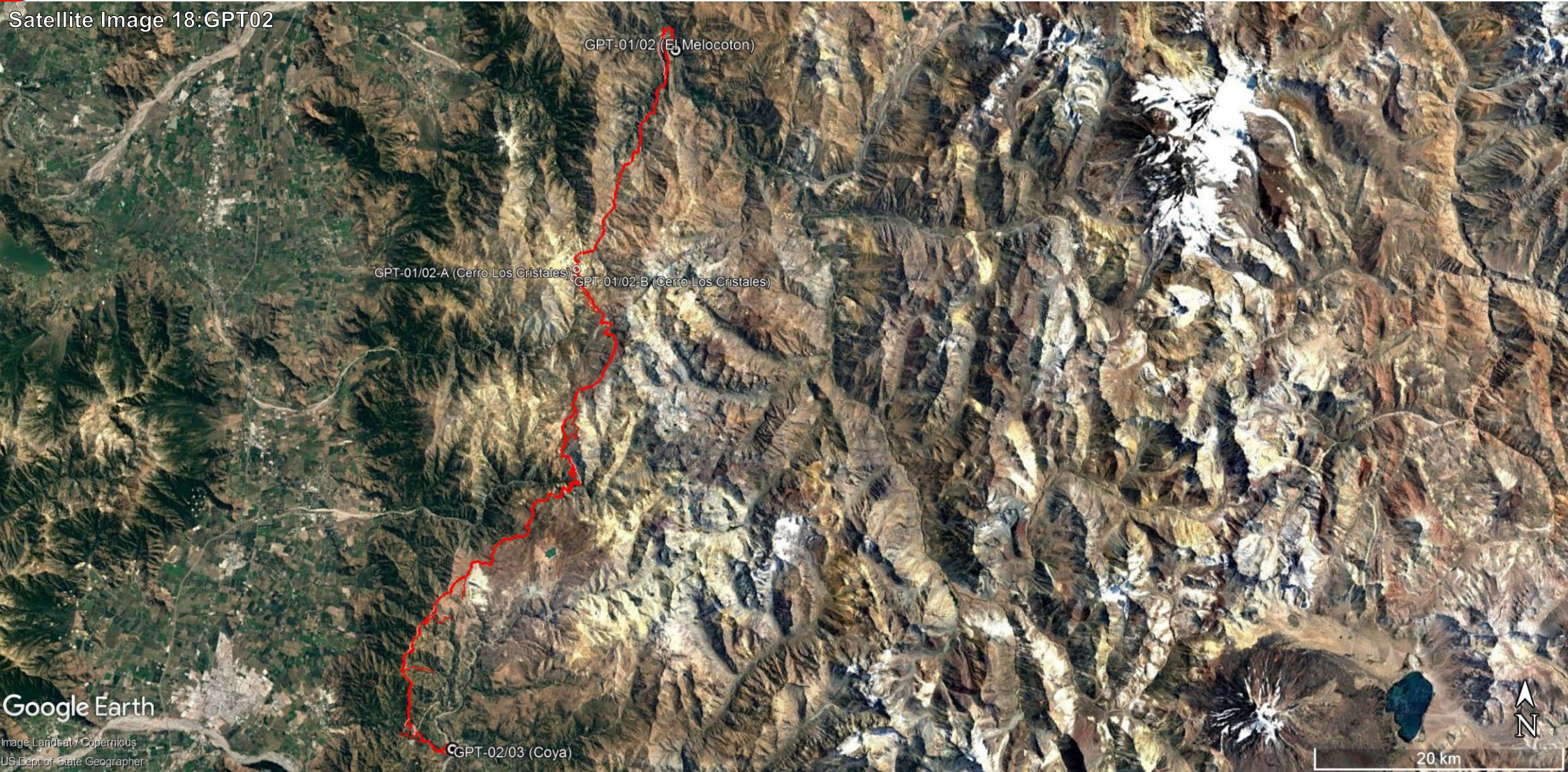
2.4.3 GPT02: Mina El Teniente

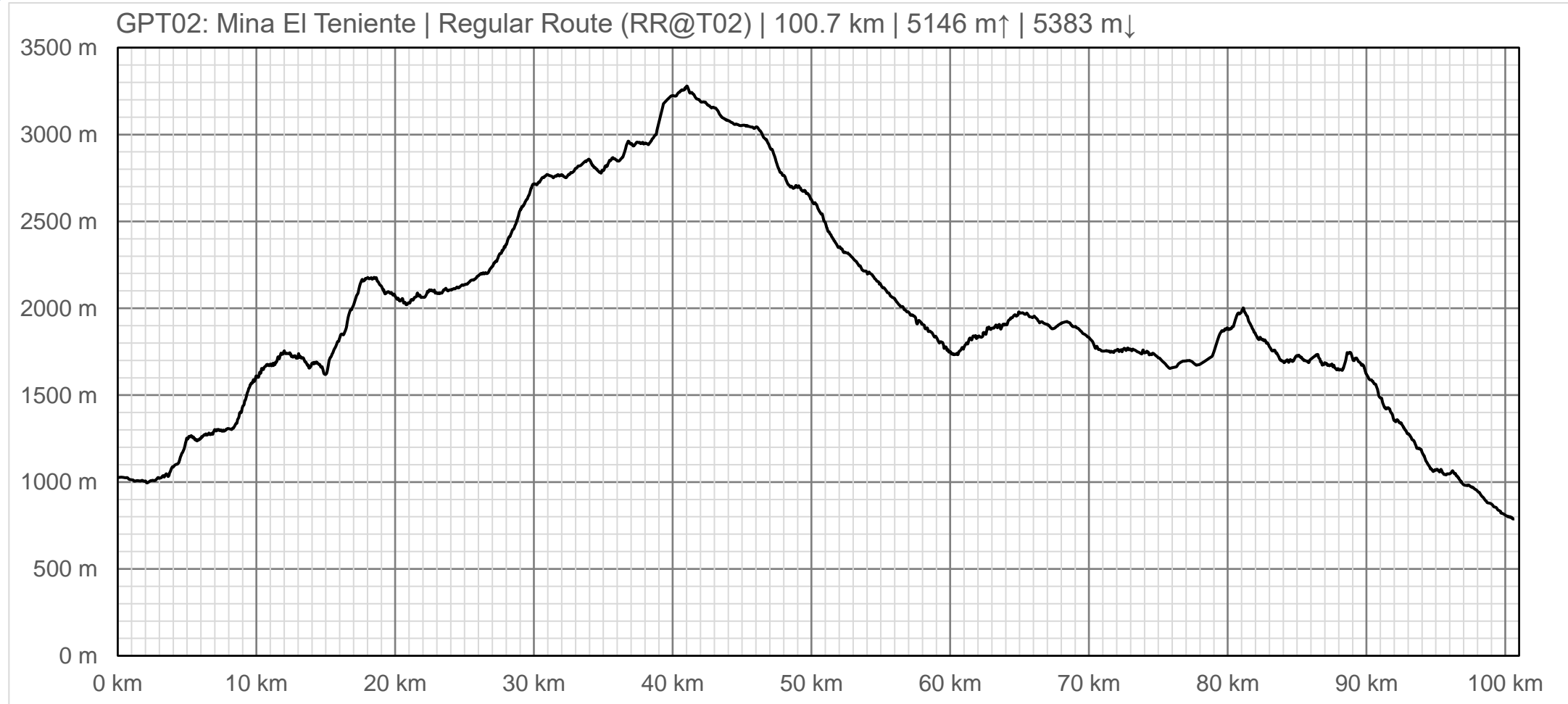
To be issued.

GPT02: Mina El Teniente		
Traversable	Jan - Mar (Conditionally: Dec, Apr)	
Packraft	Only Burden	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	2/5	No Rating
Difficulty	3/5	No Rating
Distance	100.7 km 36 h	100.7 km 36 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	A: Zona Precordillera	
Region	Chile: Region Metropolitano (V) & O'Higgins (VI)	
Start	El Melocotón	
Finish	Coya	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT01	GPT03	-

Table 35: GPT02 Section Summary

Satellite Image 18:GPT02





Elevation Profile 6: GPT02 Regular Route

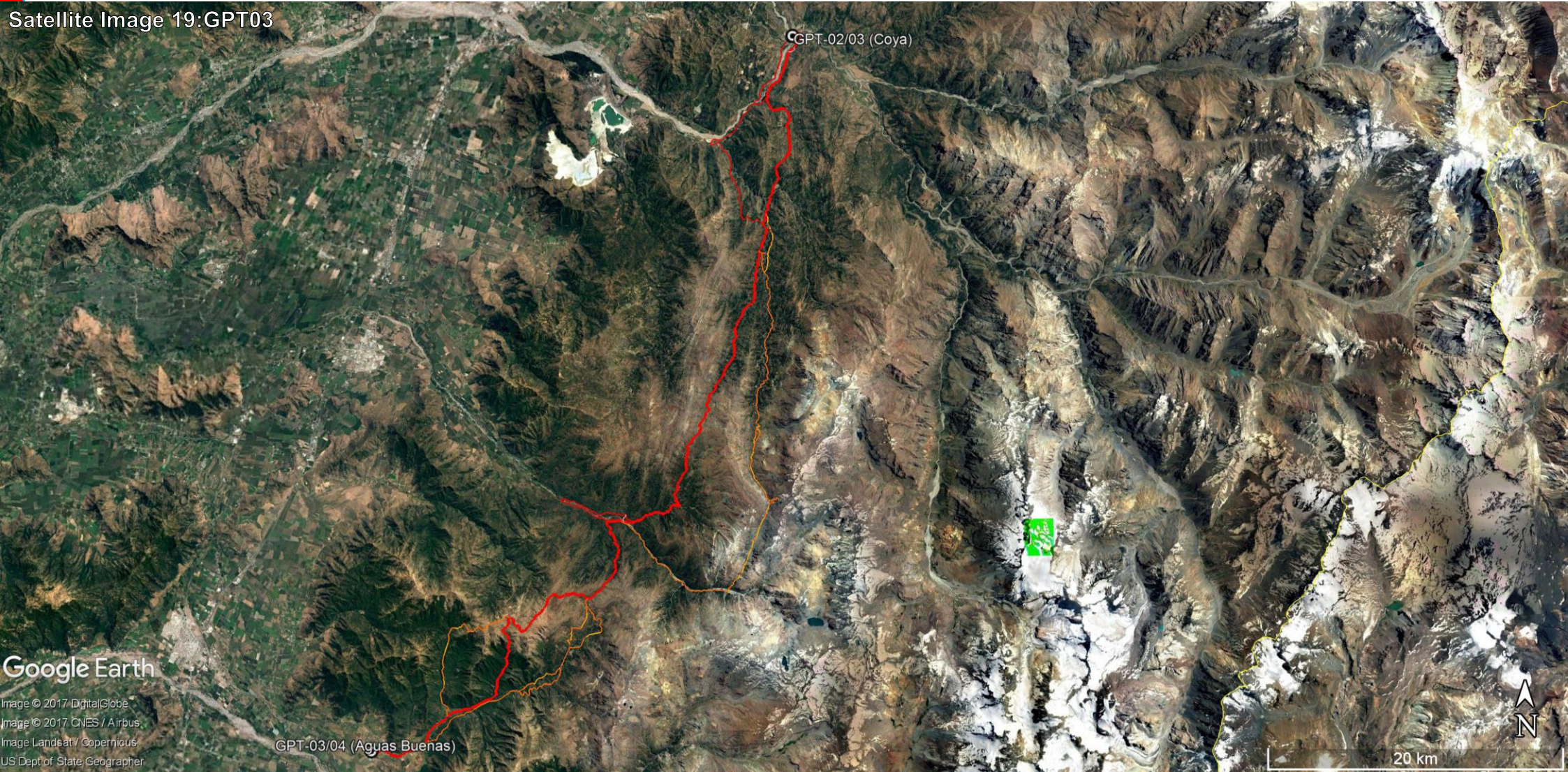
2.4.4 GPT03: Ríos Claros

To be issued.

GPT03: Ríos Claros		
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Conditionally: Nov, Apr)	
Packraft	Only Burden	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	1/5	No Rating
Difficulty	2/5	No Rating
Distance	83.7 km 32 h	83.7 km 32 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	A: Zona Precordillera	
Region	Chile: Region O'Higgins (VI)	
Start	Coya	
Finish	Aguas Buenas	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT02	GPT04	-

Table 36: GPT03 Section Summary

Satellite Image 19:GPT03



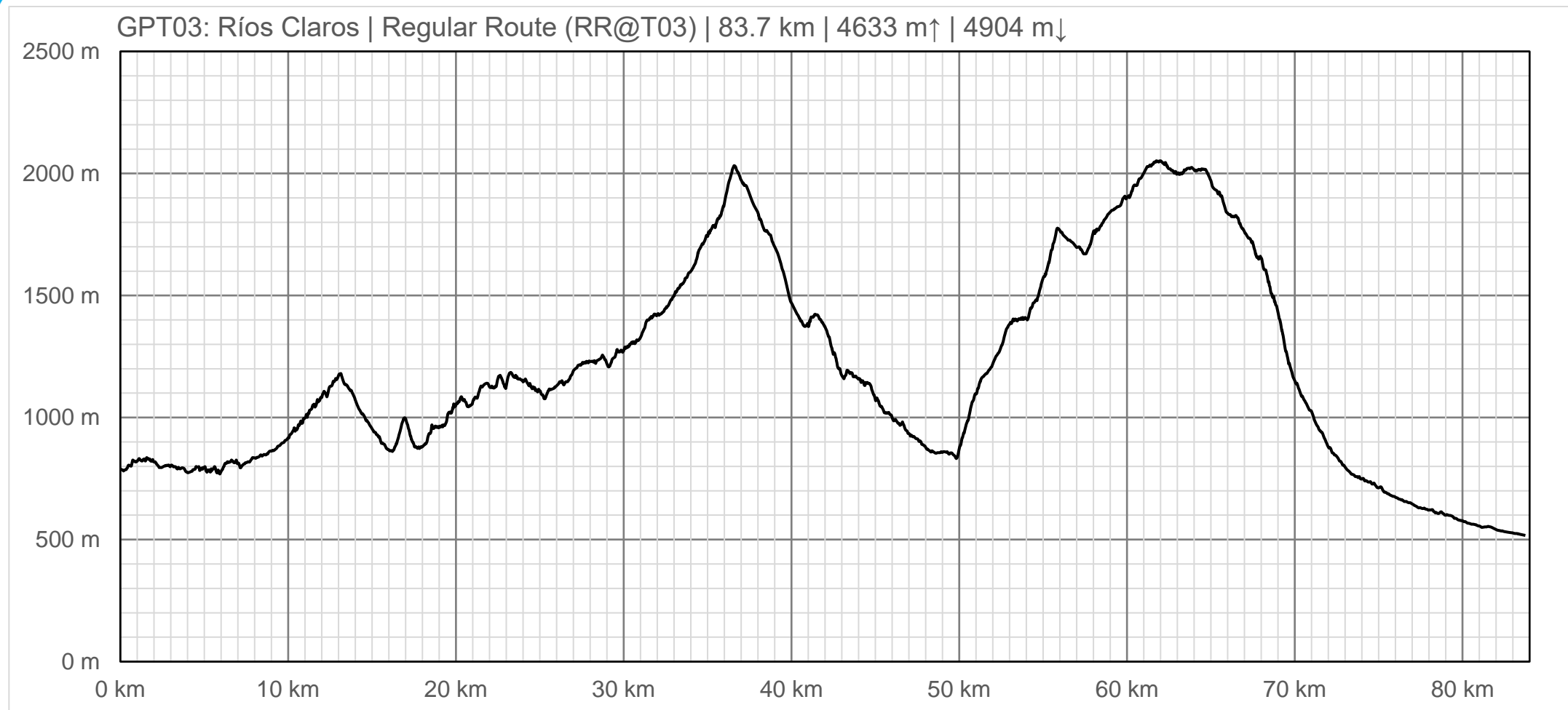
Google Earth

Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe
Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus
Image Landsat / Copernicus
US Dept of State Geographer

GPT-03/04 (Aguas Buenas)

20 km





Elevation Profile 7: GPT03 Regular Route

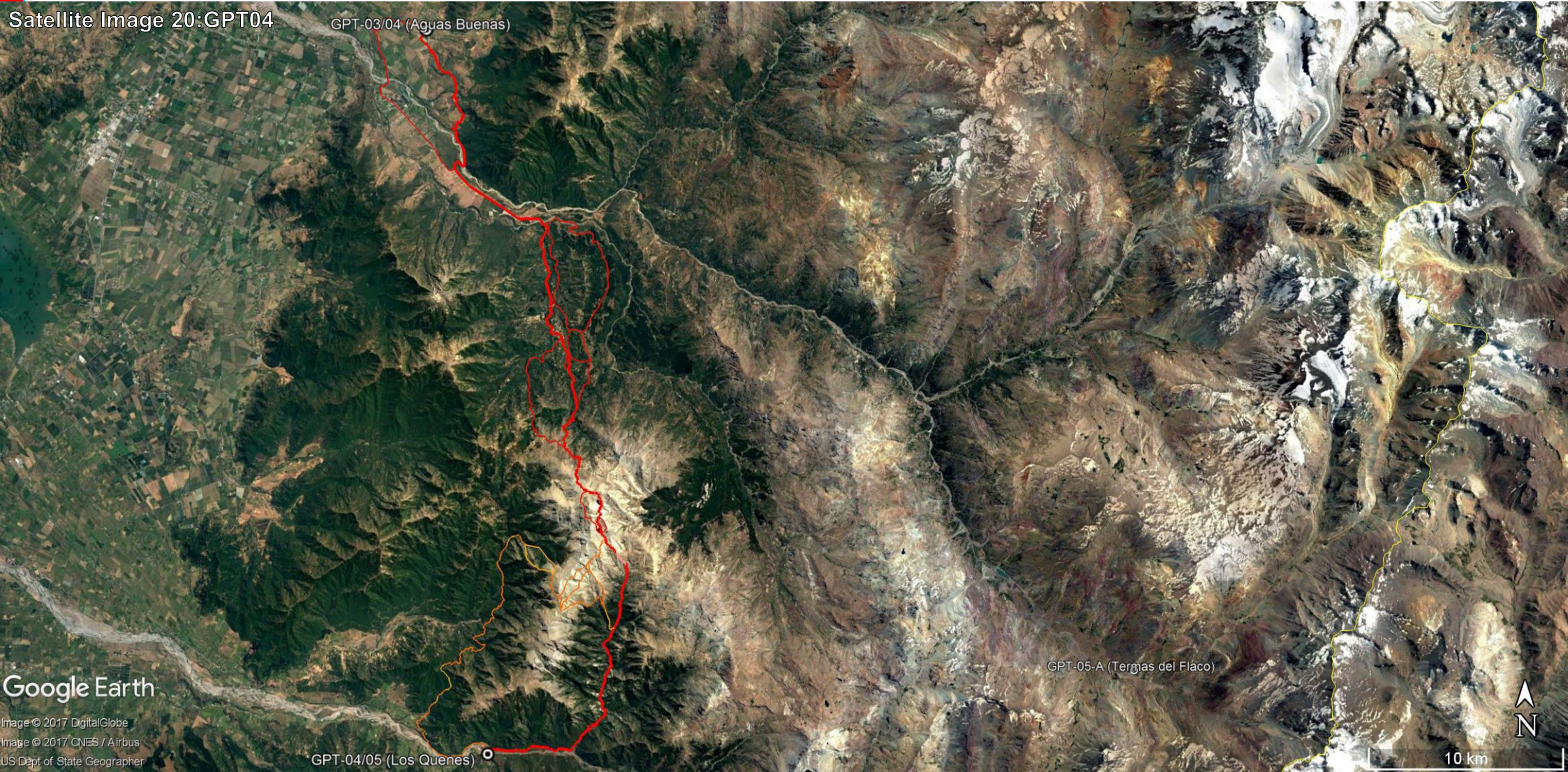
2.4.5 GPT04: Alto Huemul

To be issued.

GPT04: Alto Huemul		
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Conditionally: Nov, Apr)	
Packraft	Only Burden	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	2/5	No Rating
Difficulty	2/5	No Rating
Distance	60.9 km 21 h	60.9 km 21 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	A: Zona Precondillera	
Region	Chile: Region O'Higgins (VI) & Maule (VII)	
Start	Aguas Buenas	
Finish	Los Queñes	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT03	GPT05	-

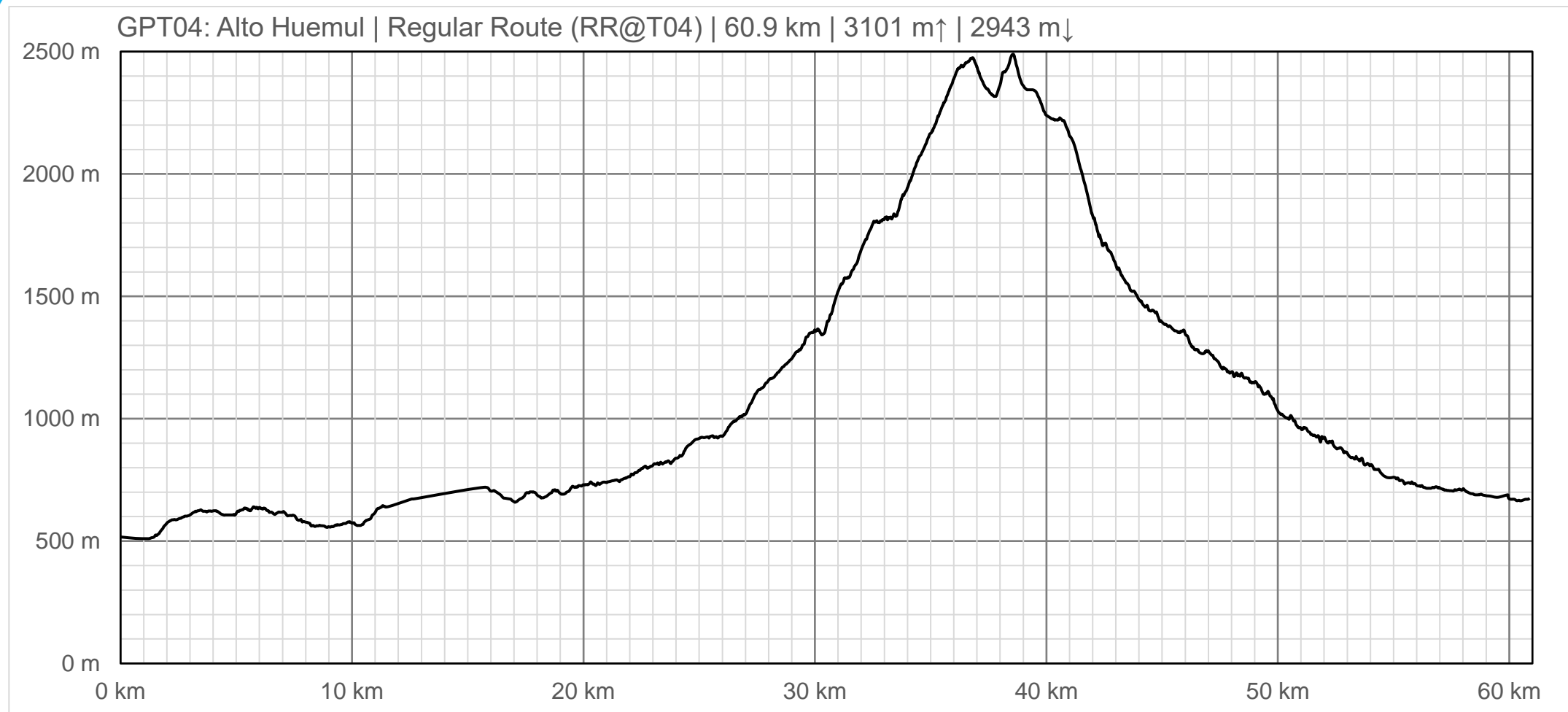
Table 37: GPT04 Section Summary

Satellite Image 20:GPT04



Google Earth

Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe
Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus
US Dept of State Geographer



Elevation Profile 8: GPT04 Regular Route

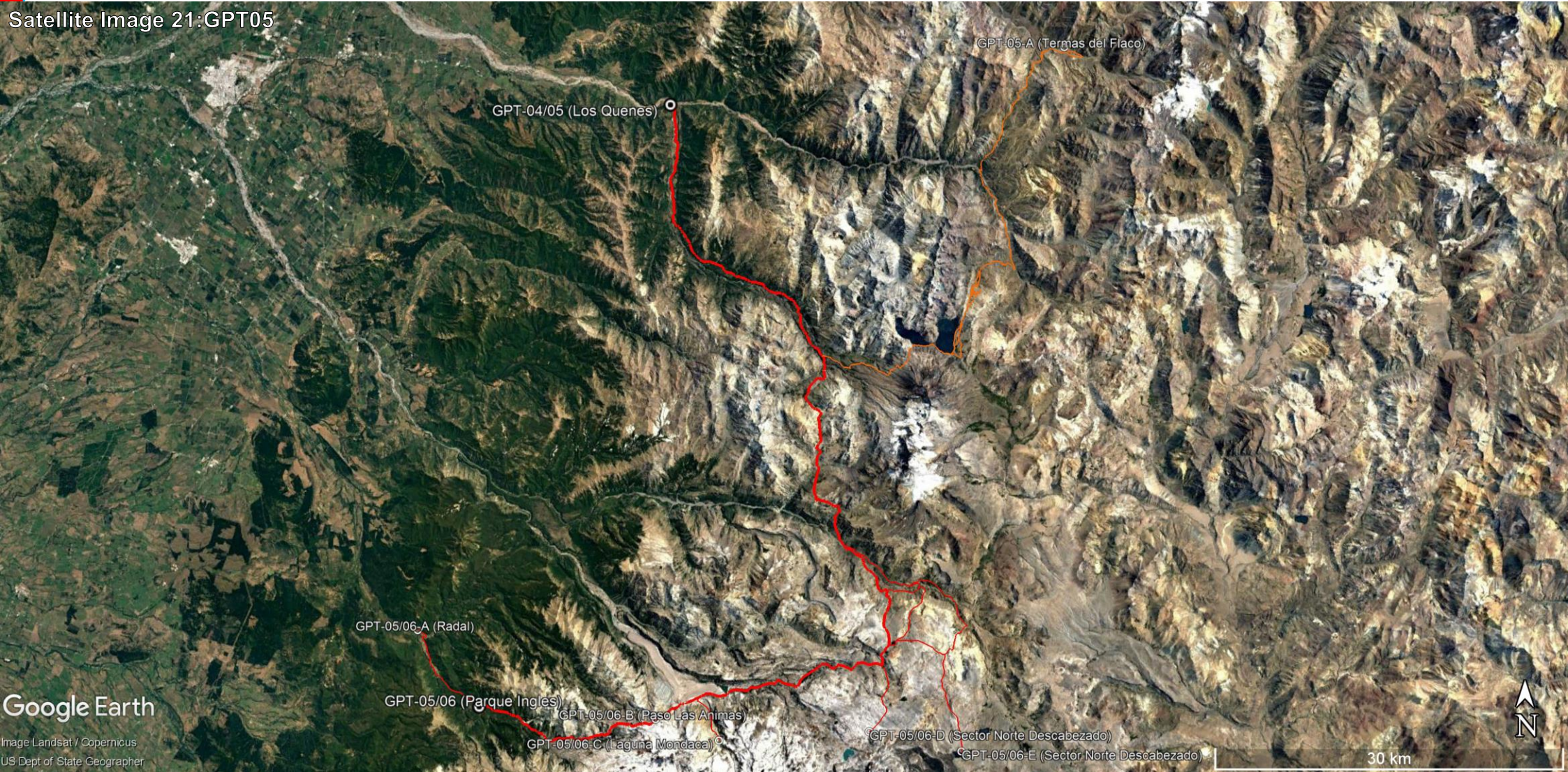
2.4.6 GPT05: Río Colorado

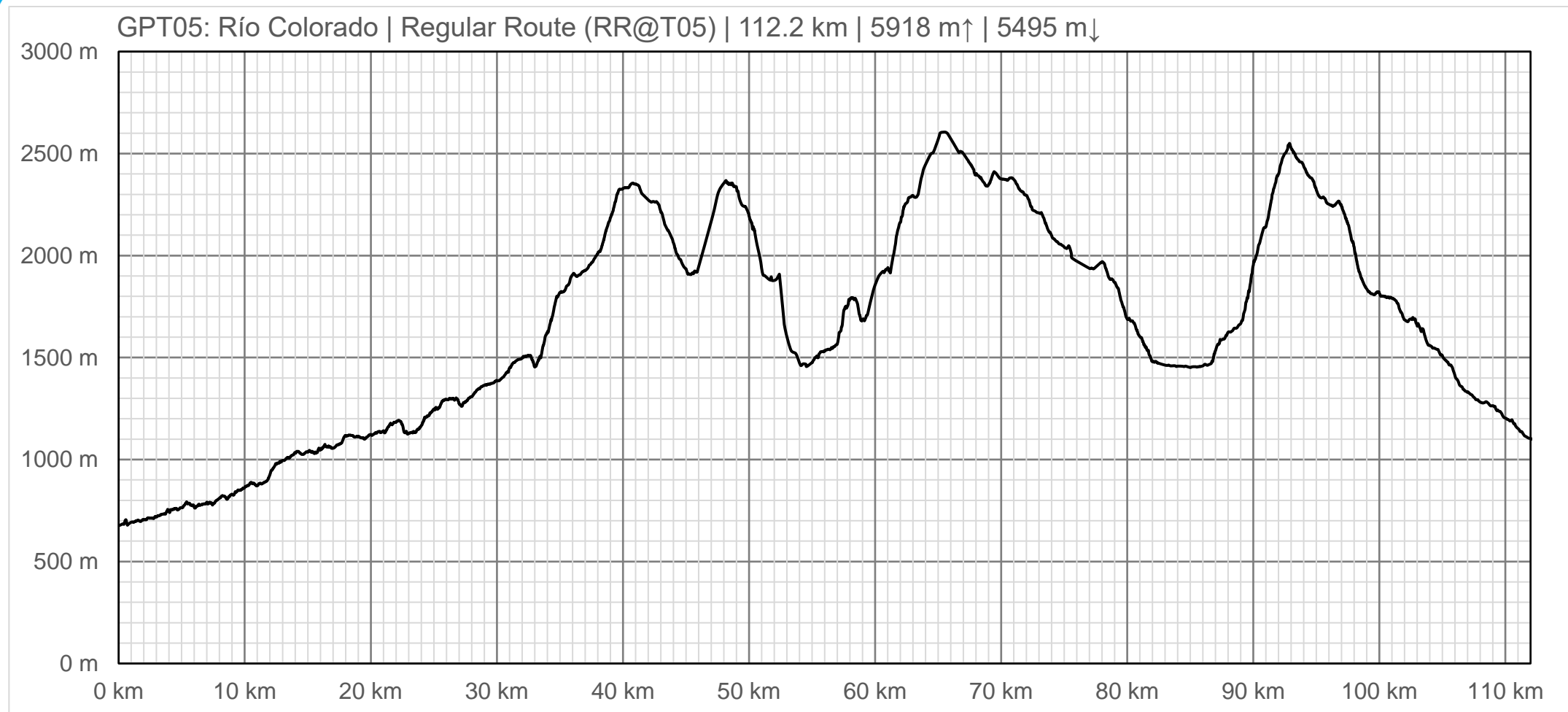
To be issued.

GPT05: Río Colorado		
Traversable	- (Conditionally: Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr)	
Packraft	Only Burden	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	3/5	No Rating
Difficulty	5/5	No Rating
Distance	112.2 km 41 h	112.2 km 41 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	B: Zona Arrieros	
Region	Chile: Maule (VII)	
Start	Los Queñes	
Finish	Radal	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT04	GPT06	-

Table 38: GPT05 Section Summary

Satellite Image 21:GPT05





Elevation Profile 9: GPT05 Regular Route

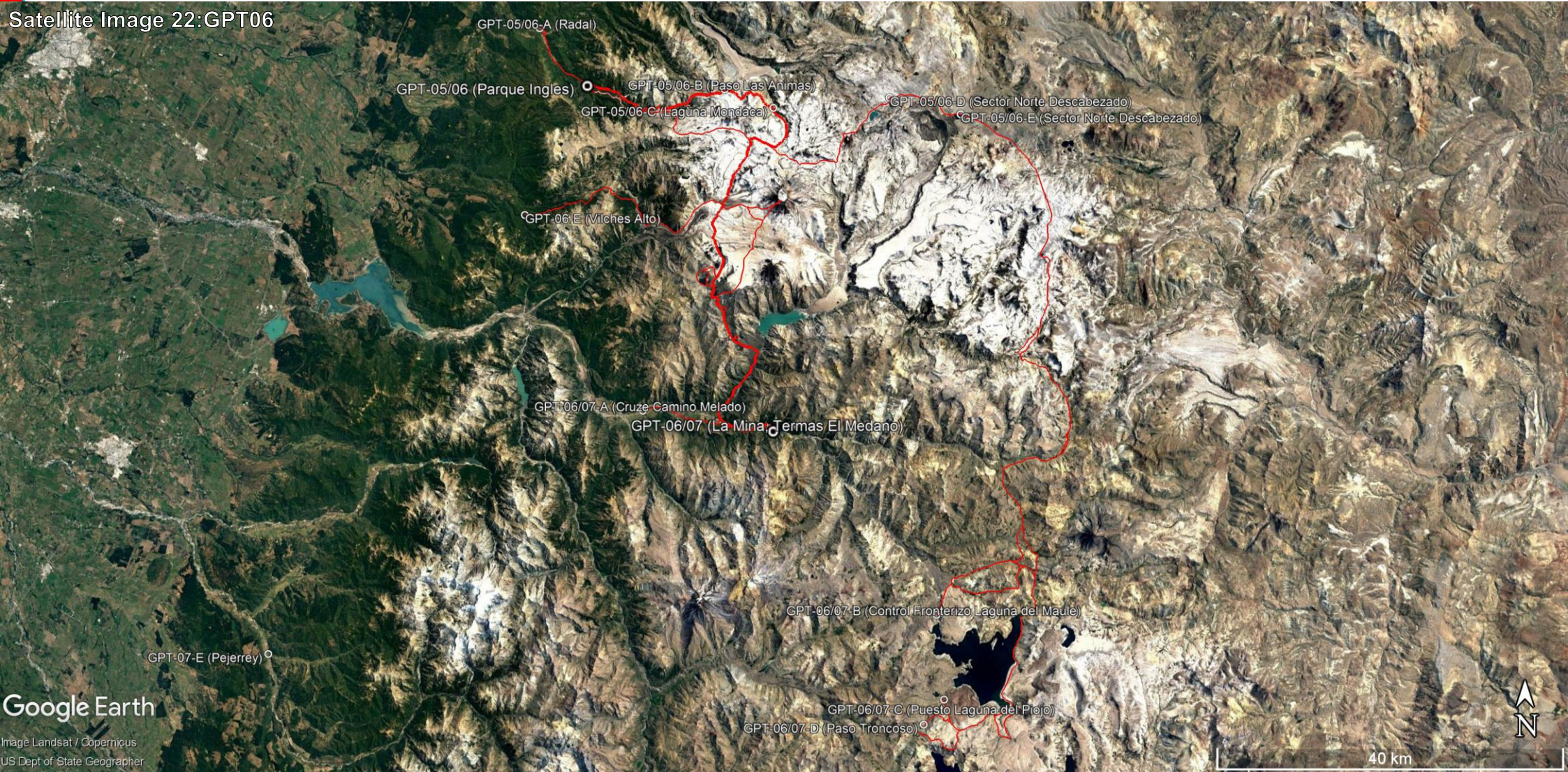
2.4.7 GPT06: Volcán Descabezado

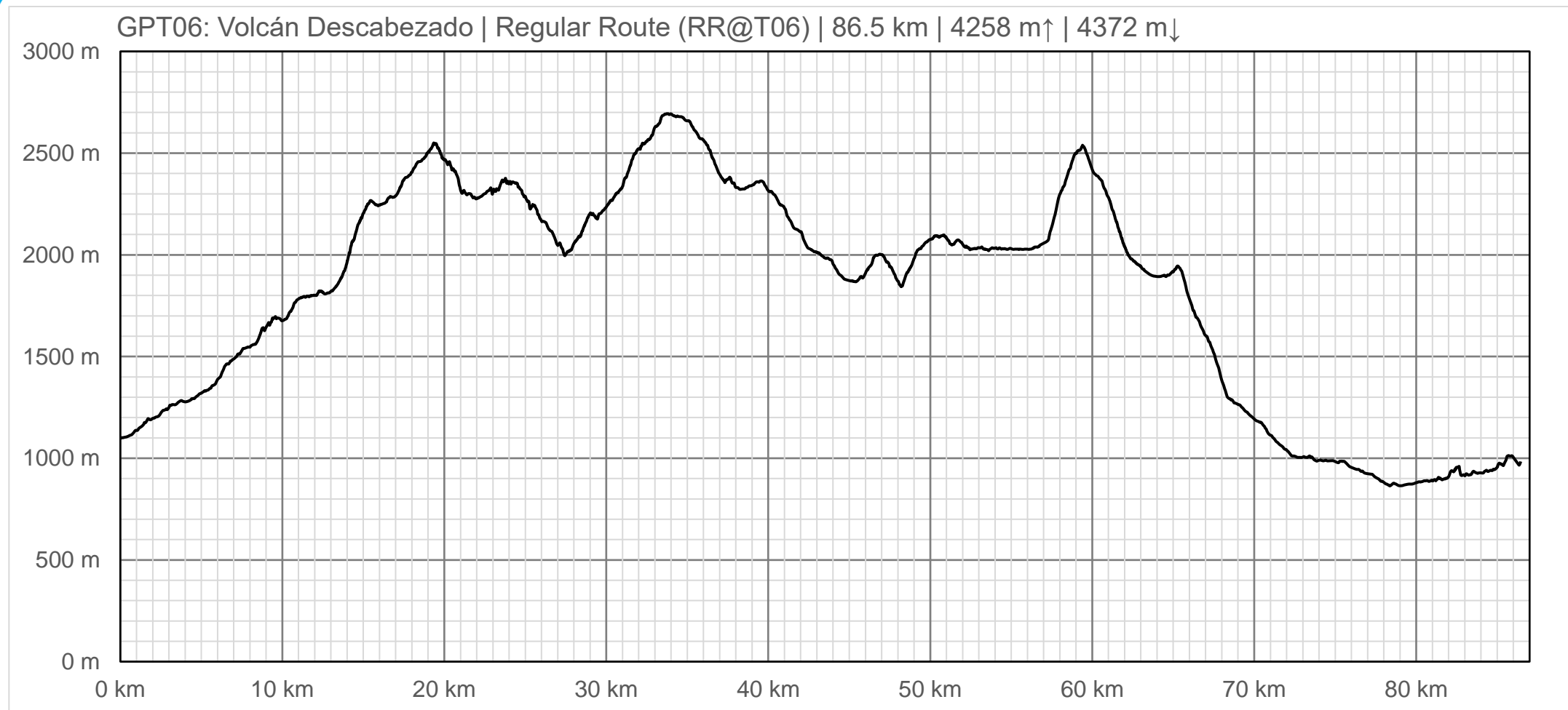
To be issued.

GPT06: Volcán Descabezado		
Traversable	Jan - Mar (Conditionally: Dec, Apr)	
Packraft	Only Burden	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	5/5	No Rating
Difficulty	5/5	No Rating
Distance	86.5 km 30 h	86.5 km 30 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	Hiking: ↑ Permit required Packrafting: ↑ Permit required	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	B: Zona Arrieros	
Region	Chile: Maule (VII)	
Start	Radal	
Finish	La Mina, Termas del Médano	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT05	GPT07	-

Table 39: GPT06 Section Summary

Satellite Image 22: GPT06





Elevation Profile 10: GPT06 Regular Route

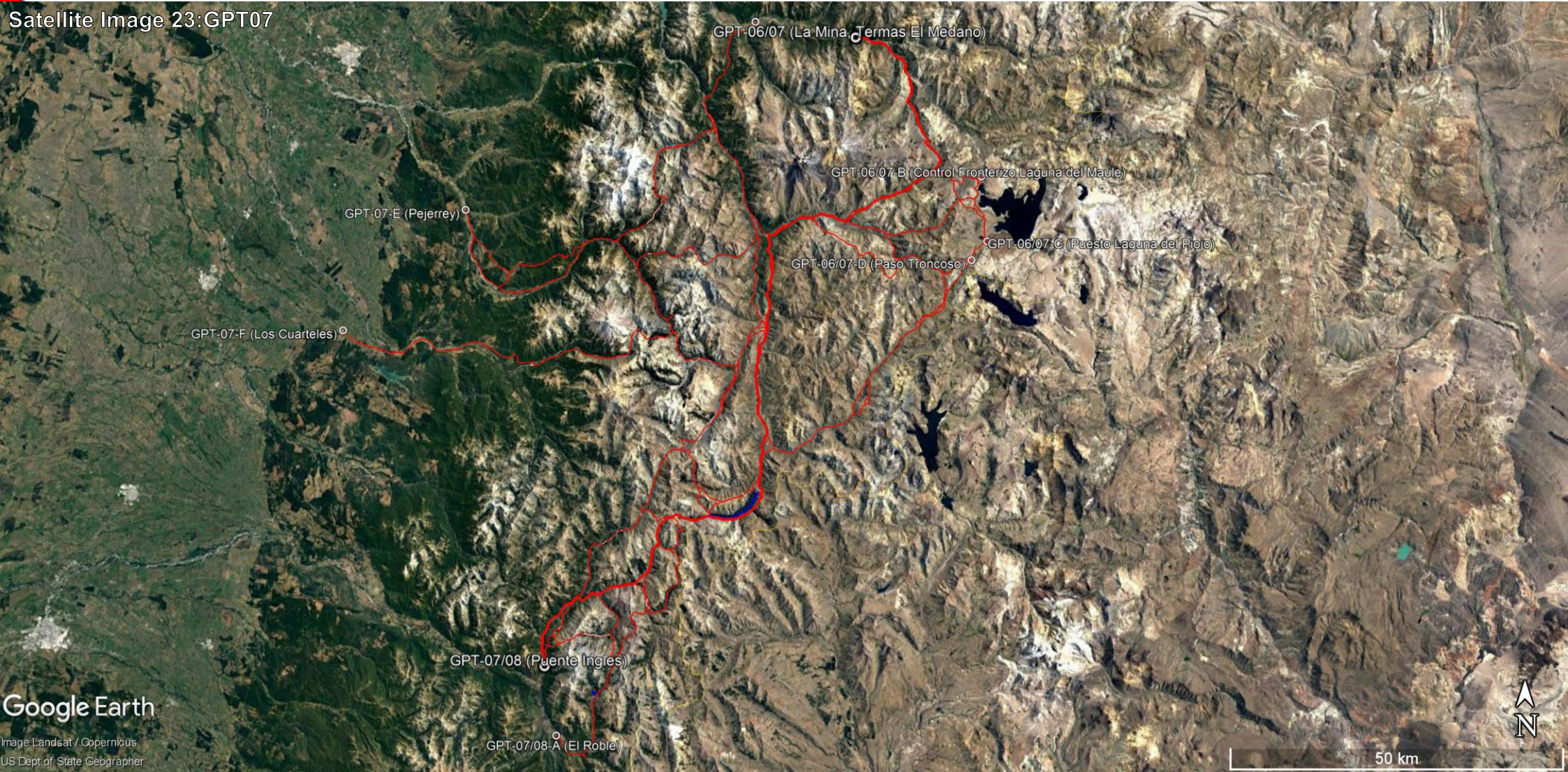
2.4.8 GPT07: Laguna Dial

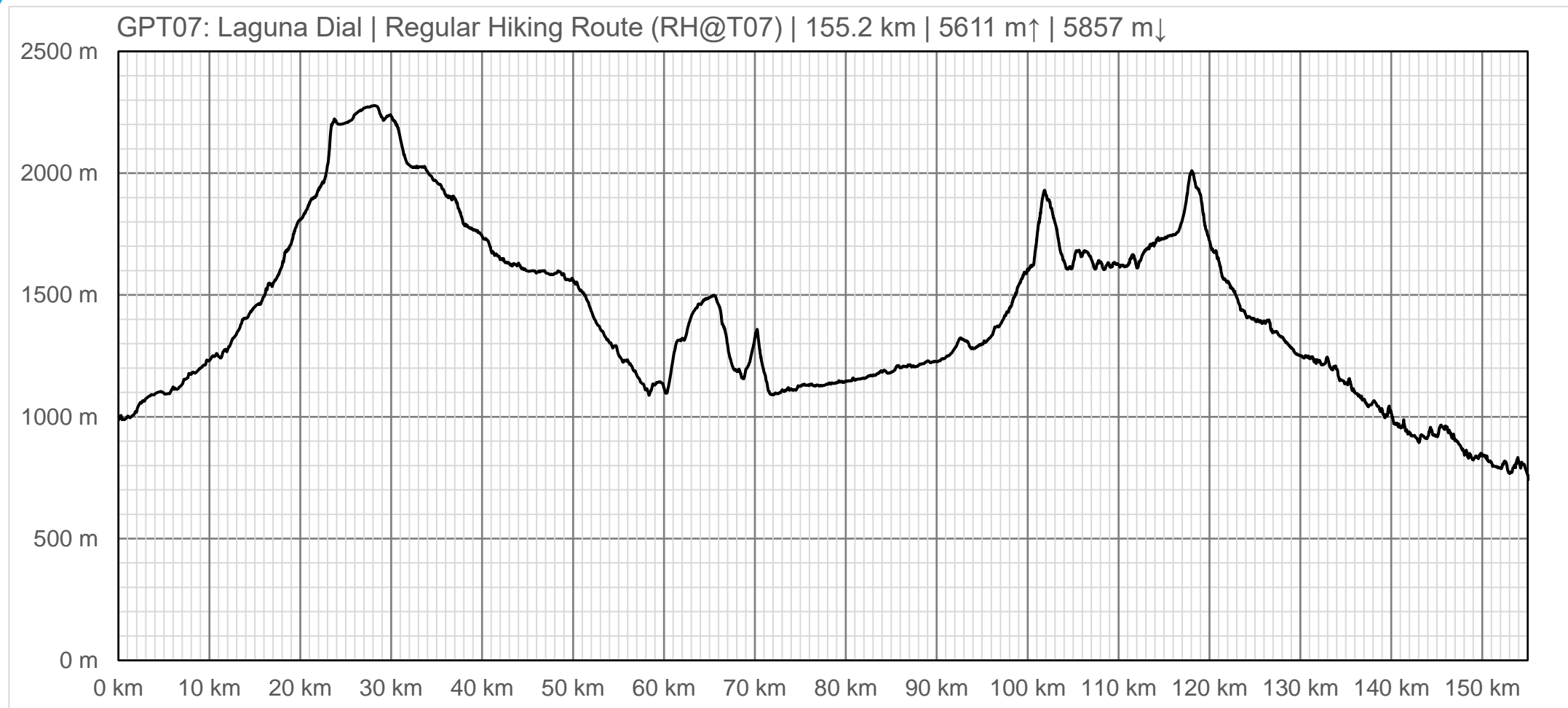
To be issued.

GPT07: Laguna Dial		
Traversable	Jan - Mar (Conditionally: Dec, Apr)	
Packraft	Deployable (9.0 km 9.0 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	4/5	No Rating
Difficulty	3/5	No Rating
Distance	155.2 km 50 h	153.0 km 48 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	B: Zona Arrieros	
Region	Chile: Maule (VII) & Bío Bío (VIII)	
Start	La Mina, Termas del Médano	
Finish	Puente Ingles , (El Roble)	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT06	GPT08	-

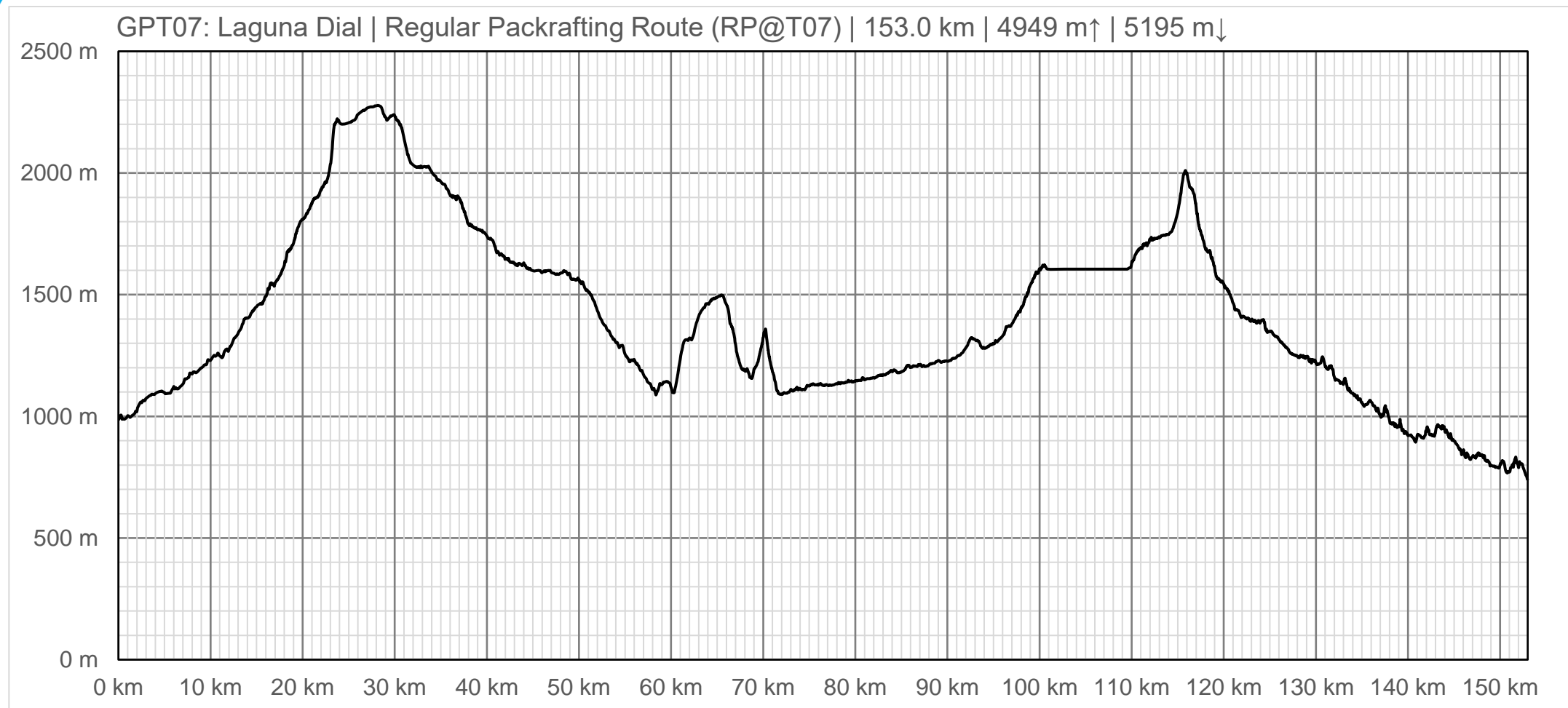
Table 40: GPT07 Section Summary

Satellite Image 23:GPT07





Elevation Profile 11: GPT07 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 12: GPT07 Regular Packrafting Route

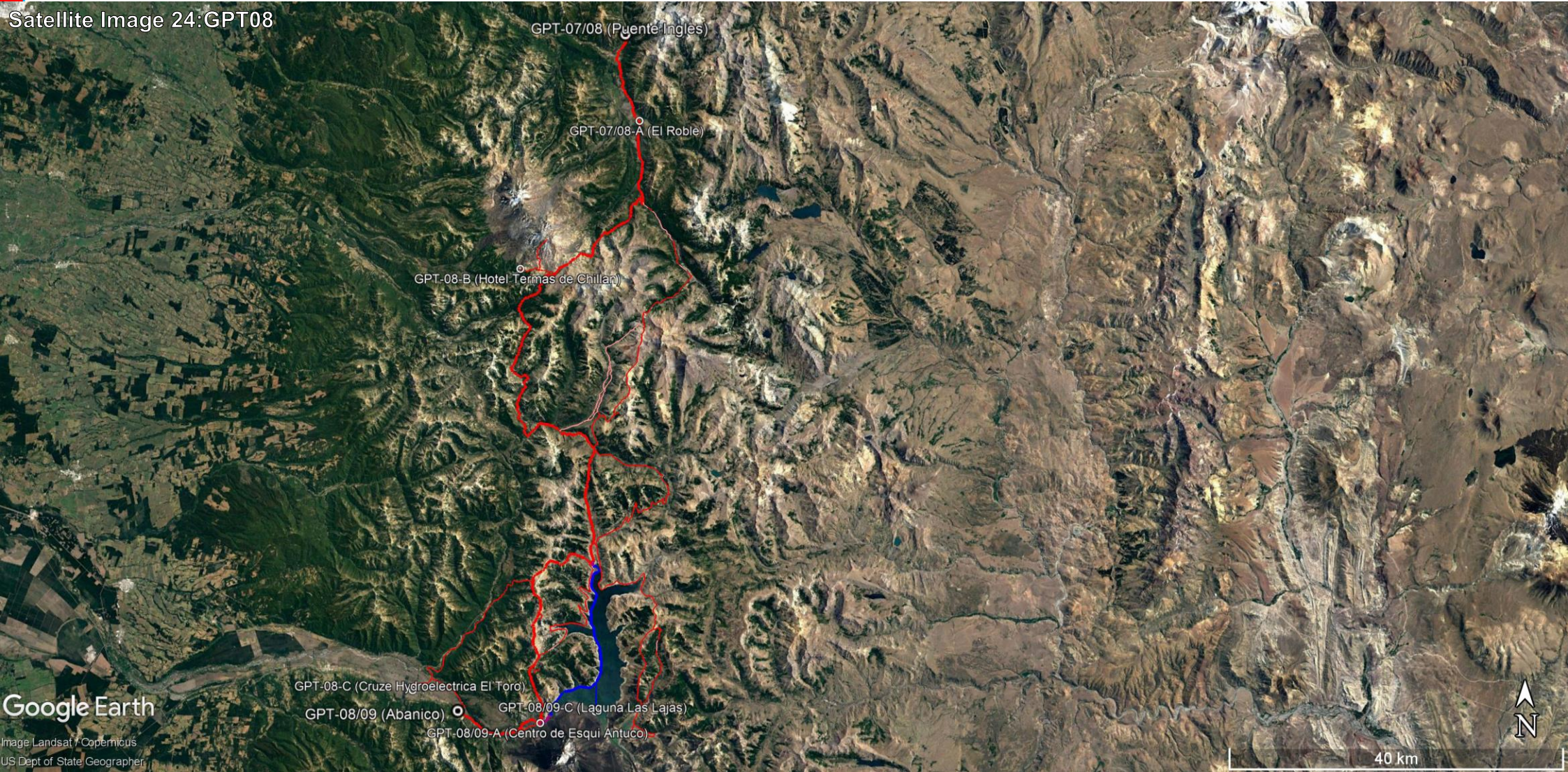
2.4.9 GPT08: Volcán Chillan

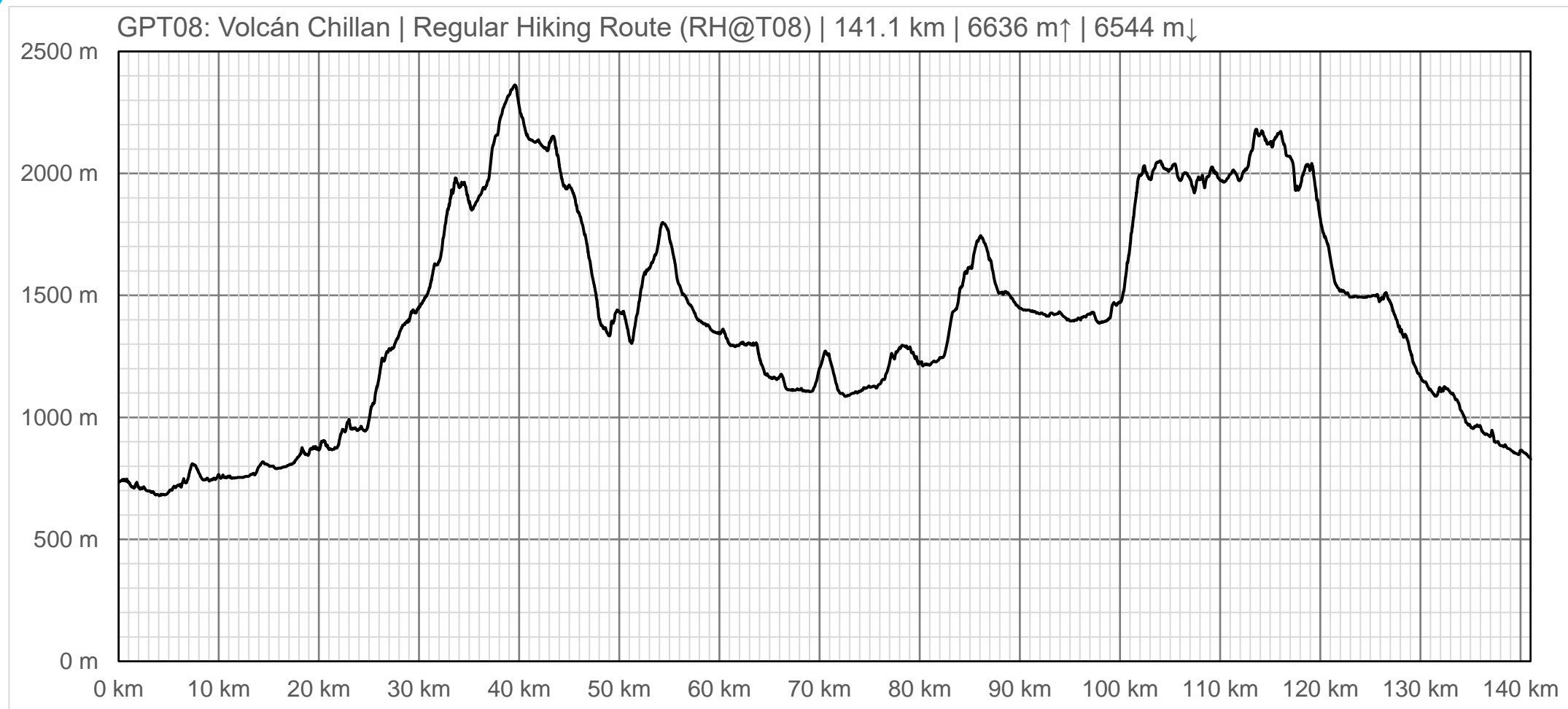
To be issued.

GPT08: Volcán Chillan		
Traversable	Jan - Mar (Conditionally: Dec, Apr)	
Packraft	Useful (22.9 km 22.9 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	5/5	5/5
Difficulty	4/5	4/5
Distance	141.1 km 48 h	135.0 km 44 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	B: Zona Arrieros	
Region	Chile: Bío Bío (VIII)	
Start	Puente Ingles , (El Roble)	
Finish	Abanico , (Centro de Esquí Antuco), (Piedra del Indio)	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT07	GPT09	-

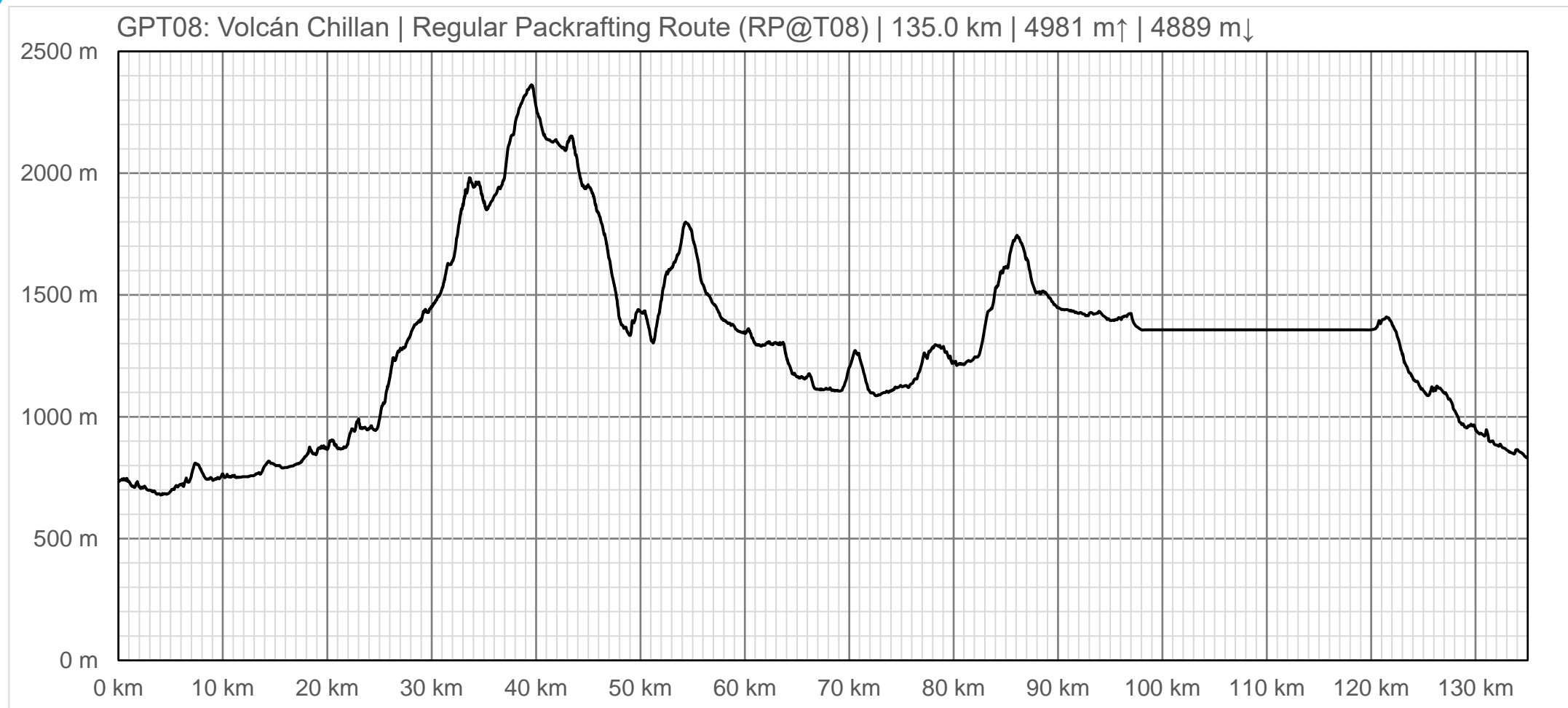
Table 41: GPT08 Section Summary

Satellite Image 24: GPT08





Elevation Profile 13: GPT08 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 14: GPT08 Regular Packrafting Route

2.4.10 GPT09:Volcán Antuco

To be issued.

This is the only place where I strongly recommend to sneak around a police station. This recommendation applies in particular to all non-Chileans going southbound.

The reason: The forward border control Pichachen is located about 20 km before the actual border. And only here the regional superiors of the PDI (Policia de Investigation) came up with the silly rule that everyone that passes the border control post towards Argentina gets stamped out of the country regardless if he leaves Chile or not. They simply ignore the fact that a few kilometers down the main road at Piedra del Indio long before reaching Argentina a horse trail diverts towards the next village in Chile called Trapa Trapa. Should you get an exit stamp into your passport but continue to hike in Chile you will be an illegal alien without a valid tourist visa. This may not instantly cause you a problem but the next time you want to leave Chile orderly i.e. from an airport the immigration system will show that you illegally in Chile and the police will assume that you trespassed into Chile. And that's taken pretty serious. Forget about your flight and your further travel plans.

GPT09: Volcán Antuco		
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Conditionally: Nov, Apr)	
Packraft	Useful (11.6 km 11.6 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	4/5	4/5
Difficulty	3/5	4/5
Distance	61.5 km 20 h	68.3 km 21 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	B: Zona Arrieros	
Region	Chile: Bío Bío (VIII)	
Start	Abanico , (Centro de Esquí Antuco), (Piedra del Indio)	
Finish	Trapa Trapa, Posta	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT08	GPT10	-

Table 42: GPT09 Section Summary

Every hikers that passed this border control got into some kind of trouble and caused these officers a headache. Some hikers could convince them after long discussions to pass without an exit stamp. Some hikers got an exit stamp and run into problems later. Some hikers pretended to walk back and took a partly overgrown route to walk around the border control. When we hiked this section in January 2014 I got unasked an exit stamp while they “just checked my documents” but luckily after a long talk I could convince them to give me a new entry stamp.

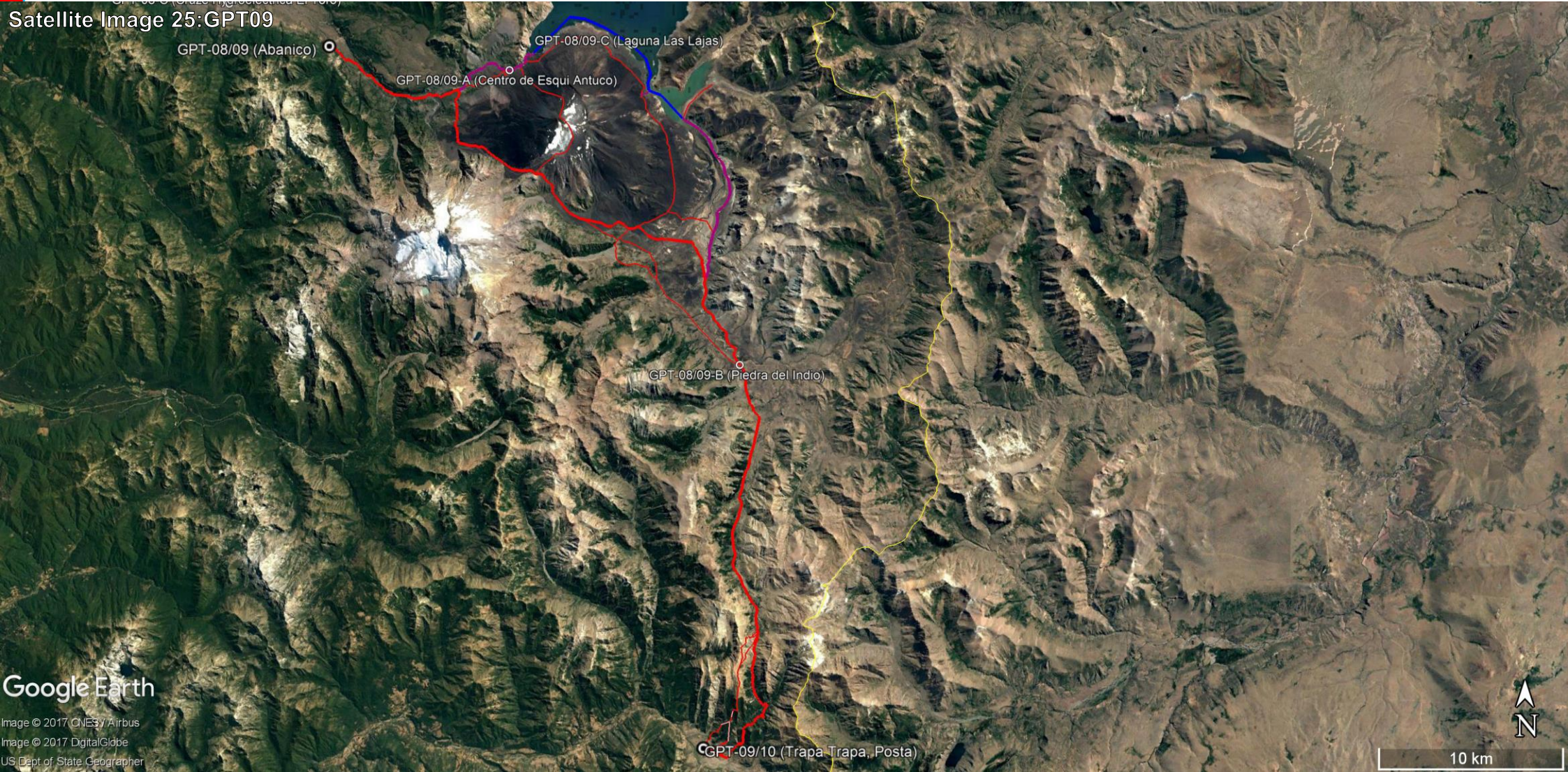
You can't blame these poor officials at the border control for this situation; they understand these occasional hikers but their regional superiors gave them strict orders. In short: this place is a potential disaster for hikers and hikers are a disturbance for these officials.

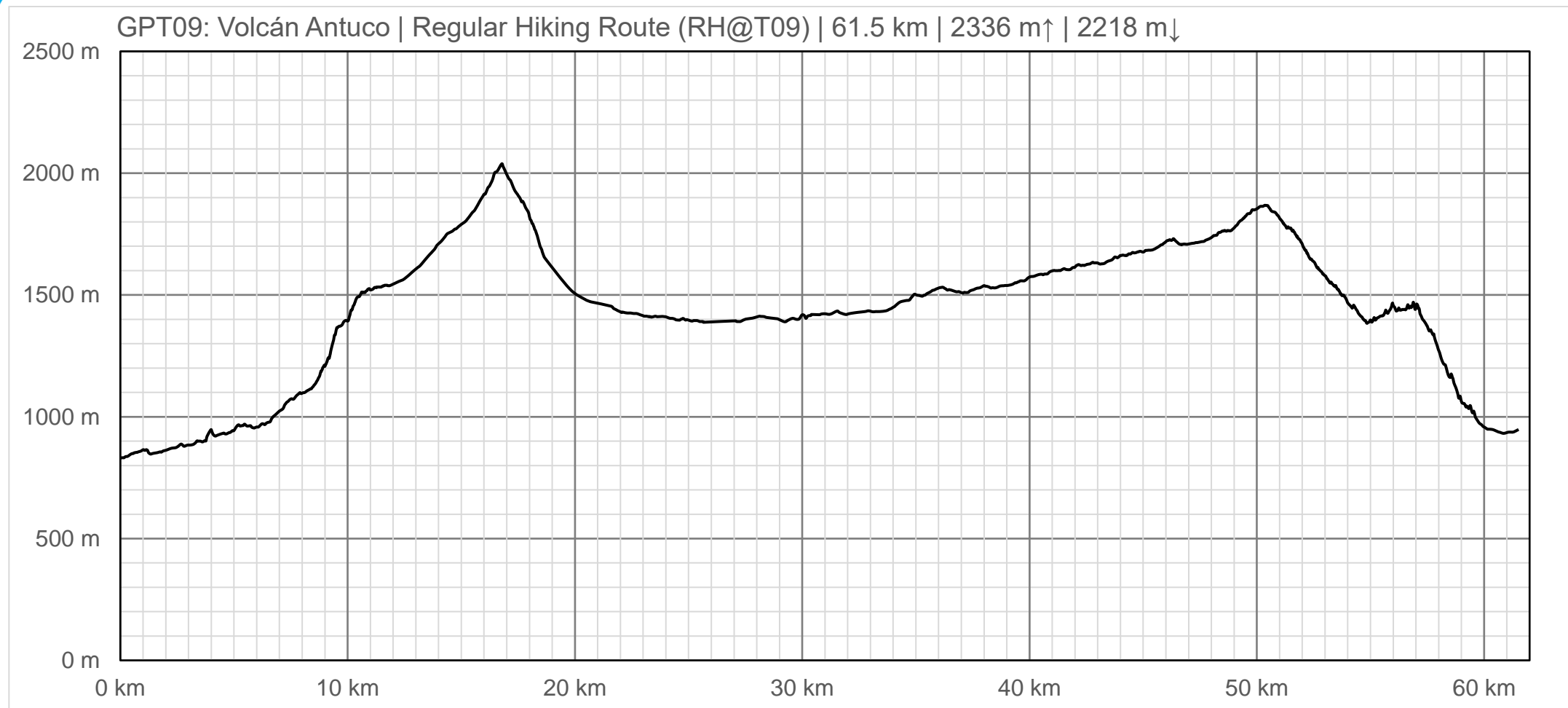
Therefore, to avoid this issue I simply rerouted the regular hiking route to bypass the border control post Pichachen. It's easier for everyone: for the hikers and for the poor police officer that have to comply with this silly order. The re-routed track leads cross country through the normally dry lake bed of the Laguna de Las Lajas and just crosses the main road at the diversion to Trapa Trapa. Walking around the border control may be suspicious but is not illegal and saves everyone nerves and endless discussions. It actually prevents you from getting into an illegal migration status while staying in Chile.

The Regular Packrafting Route anyway bypasses the border control.

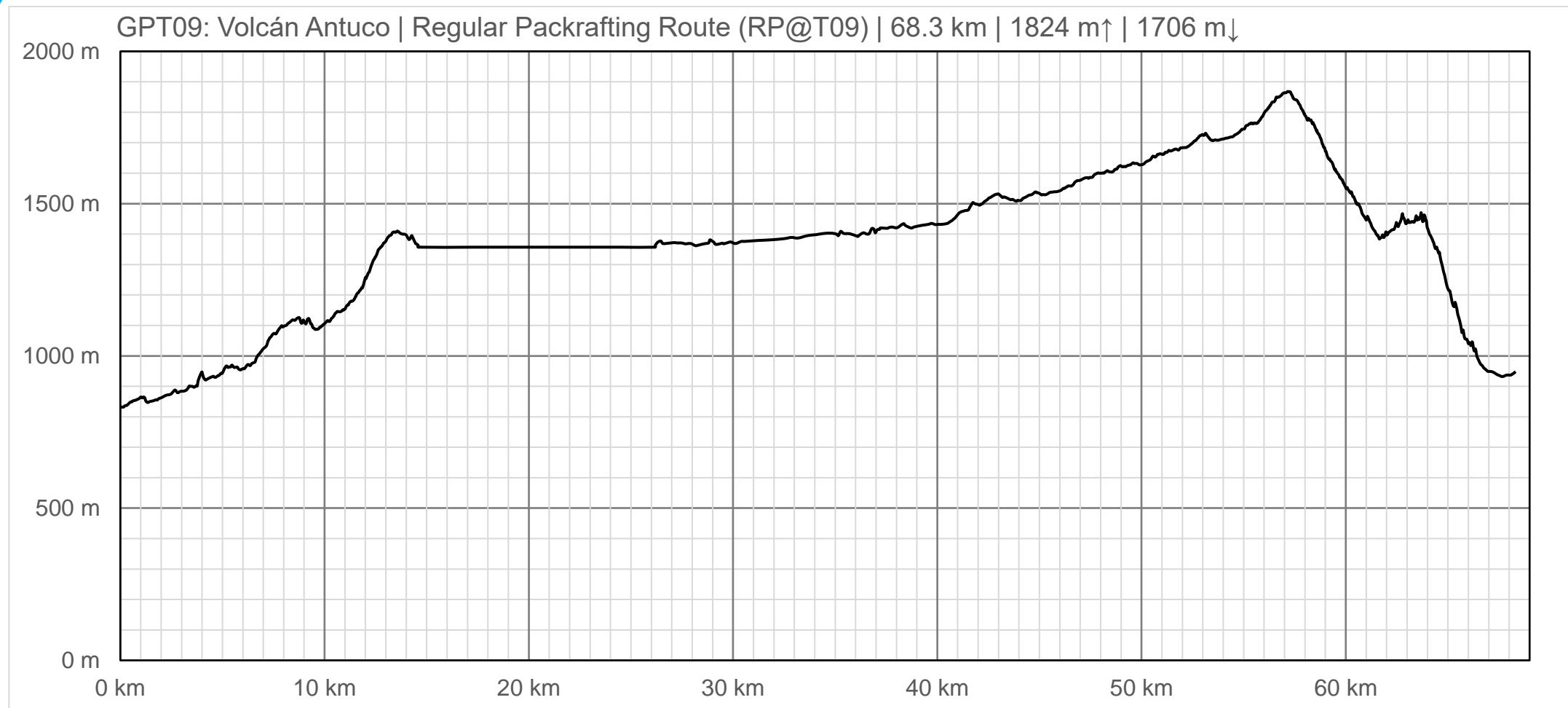
Luckily this is the only border control post I'm aware of where such a stupid rule is applied. In many other forward border controls you need to proactively approach the police and request your exit stamp if you plan to leave Chile. Should you just visit the area between the border control and the actual border you can normally just pass or explain your intentions.

Satellite Image 25:GPT09





Elevation Profile 15: GPT09 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 16: GPT09 Regular Packrafting Route

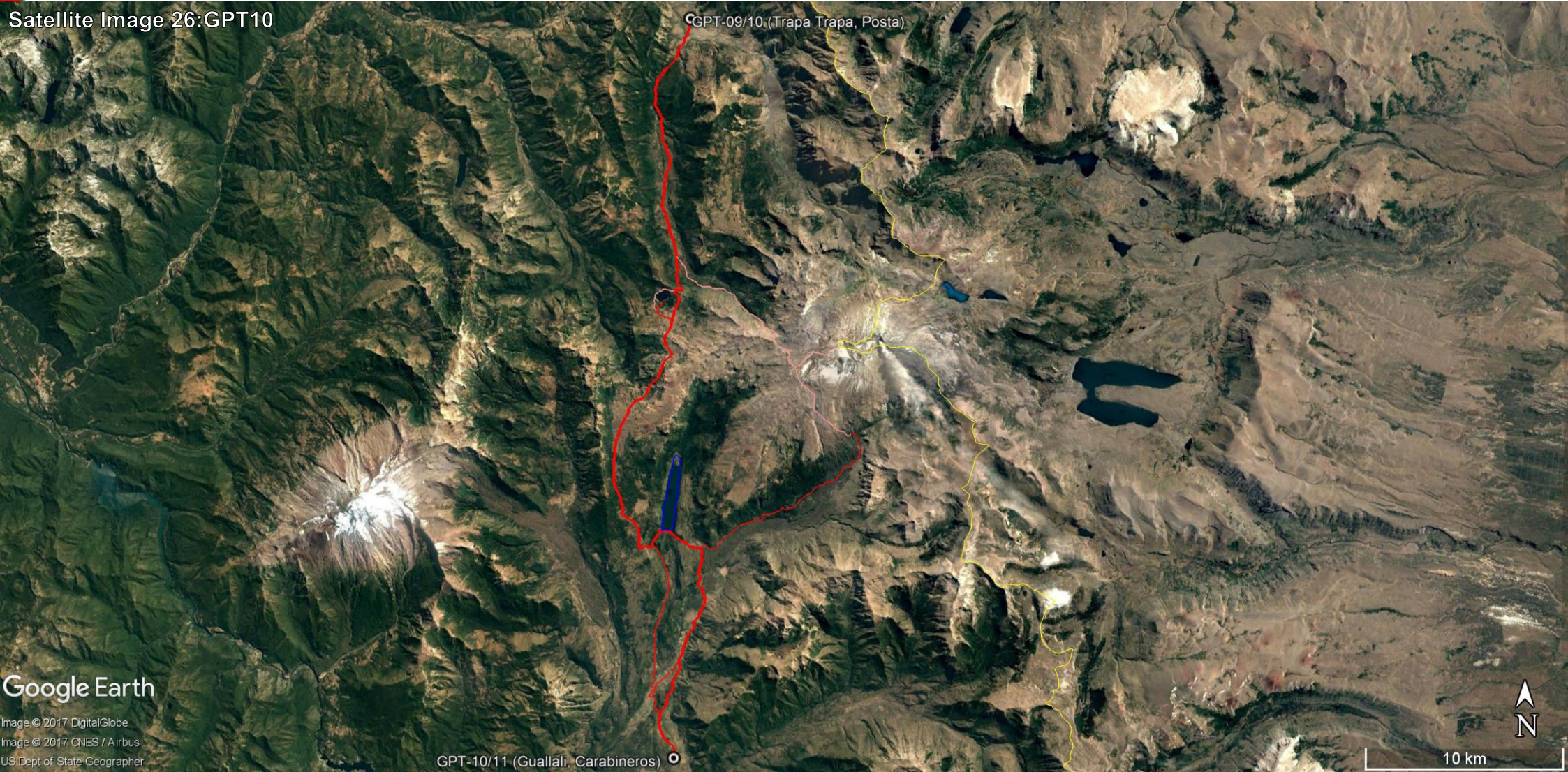
2.4.11 GPT10: Laguna El Barco

To be issued.

GPT10: Laguna El Barco		
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Conditionally: Nov, Apr)	
Packraft	Deployable	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	4/5	No Rating
Difficulty	2/5	No Rating
Distance	48.0 km 15 h	48.0 km 15 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	C: Zona Pehuenche	
Region	Chile: Bío Bío (VIII)	
Start	Trapa Trapa, Posta	
Finish	Guallali, Carabineros	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT09	GPT11	-

Table 43: GPT10 Section Summary

Satellite Image 26:GPT10



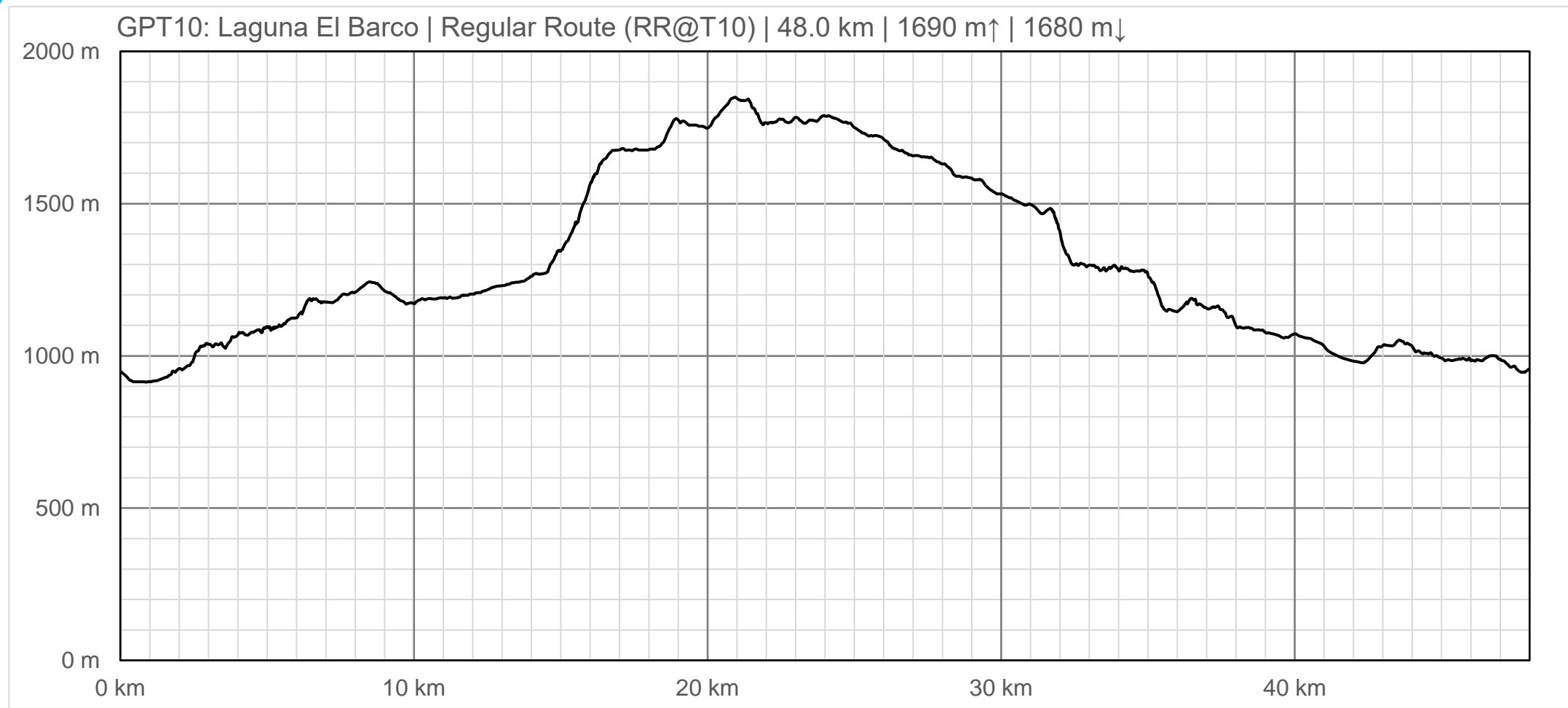
Google Earth

Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe
Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus
US Dept of State Geographer

GPT-10/11 (Guallali, Carabineros)

10 km





Elevation Profile 17: GPT10 Regular Route

2.4.12 GPT11: Cerro Dedos

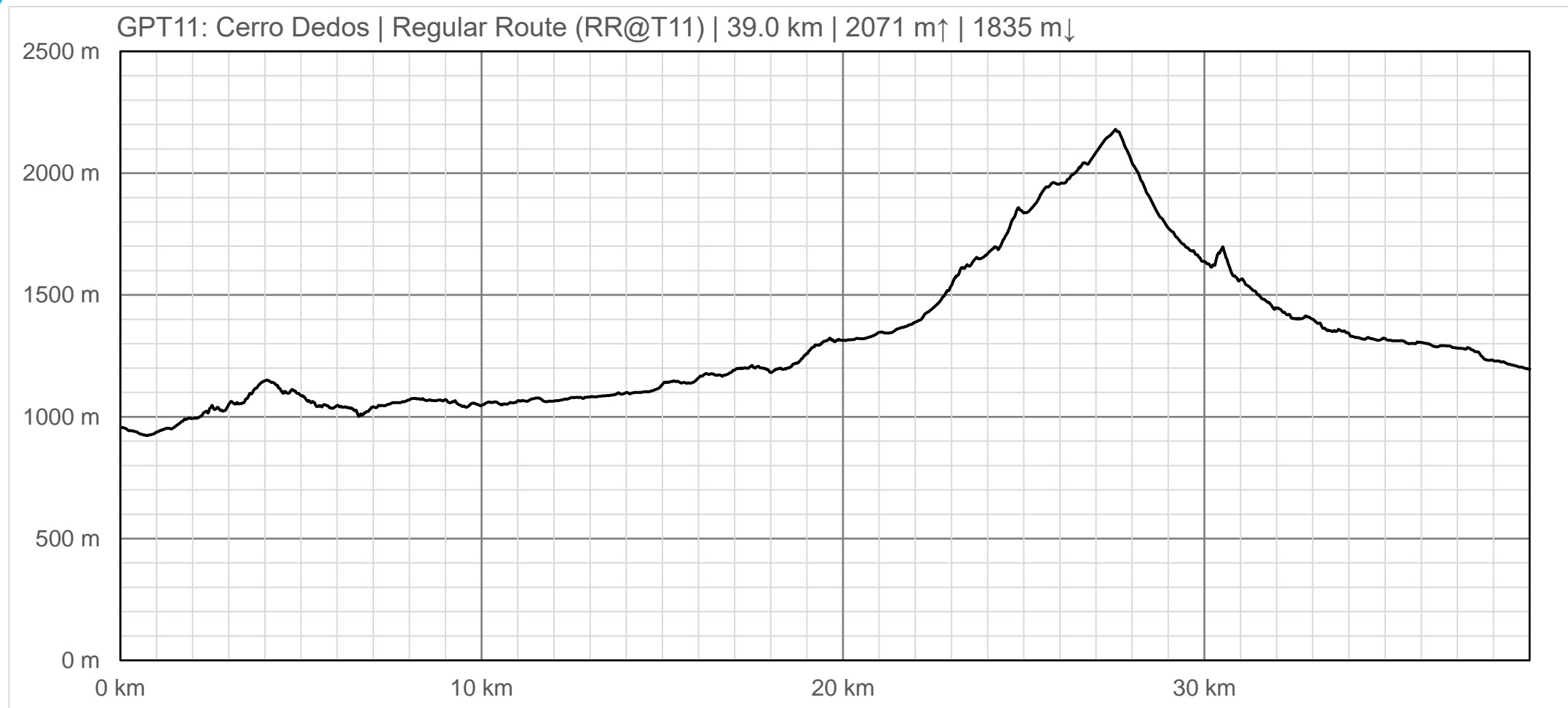
To be issued.

GPT11: Cerro Dedos		
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Conditionally: Nov, Apr)	
Packraft	Only Burden	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	5/5	No Rating
Difficulty	3/5	No Rating
Distance	39.0 km 14 h	39.0 km 14 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	C: Zona Pehuenche	
Region	Chile: Bío Bío (VIII) & Araucanía (IX)	
Start	Guallali, Carabineros	
Finish	Ranquil, Carabineros, (Termas de Pelehue)	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT10	GPT12	-

Table 44: GPT11 Section Summary

Satellite Image 27:GPT11





Elevation Profile 18: GPT11 Regular Route

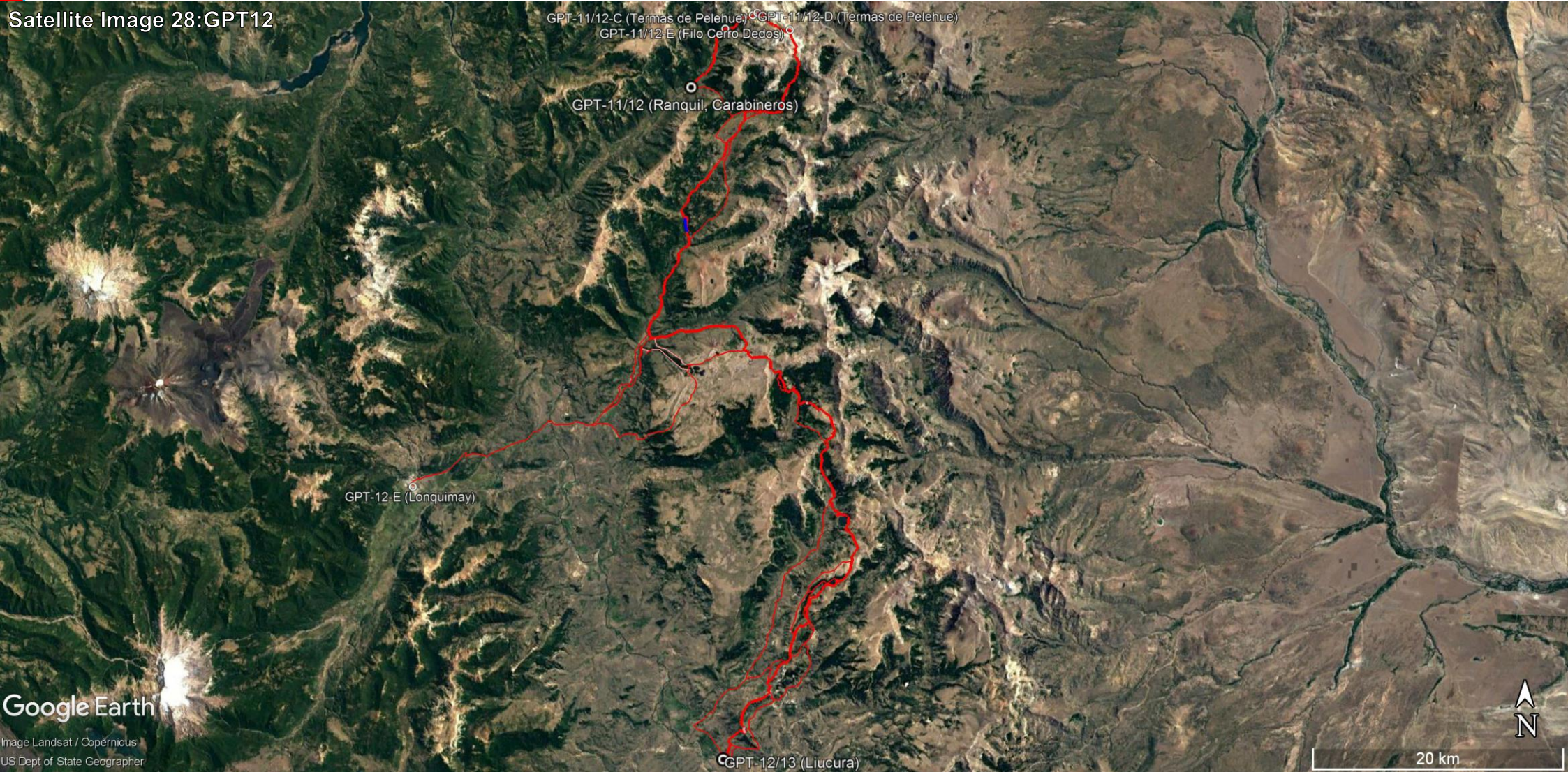
2.4.13 GPT12: Río Rahue

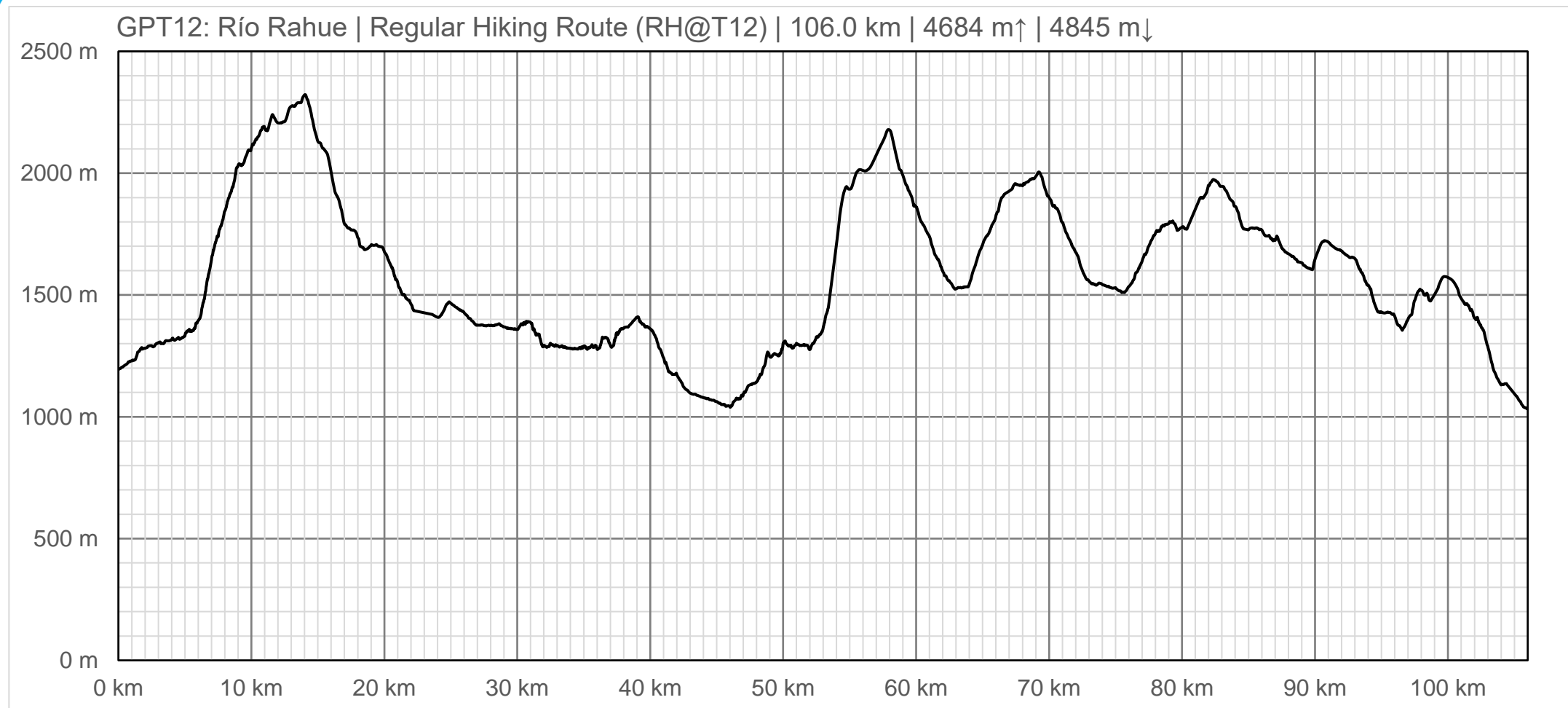
To be issued.

GPT12: Río Rahue		
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Conditionally: Nov, Apr)	
Packraft	Deployable (1.1 km 1.1 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	5/5	No Rating
Difficulty	4/5	No Rating
Distance	106.0 km 37 h	105.6 km 37 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	C: Zona Pehuenche	
Region	Chile: Araucanía (IX)	
Start	Ranquil, Carabineros, (Termas de Pelehue)	
Finish	Liucura	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT11	GPT13	-

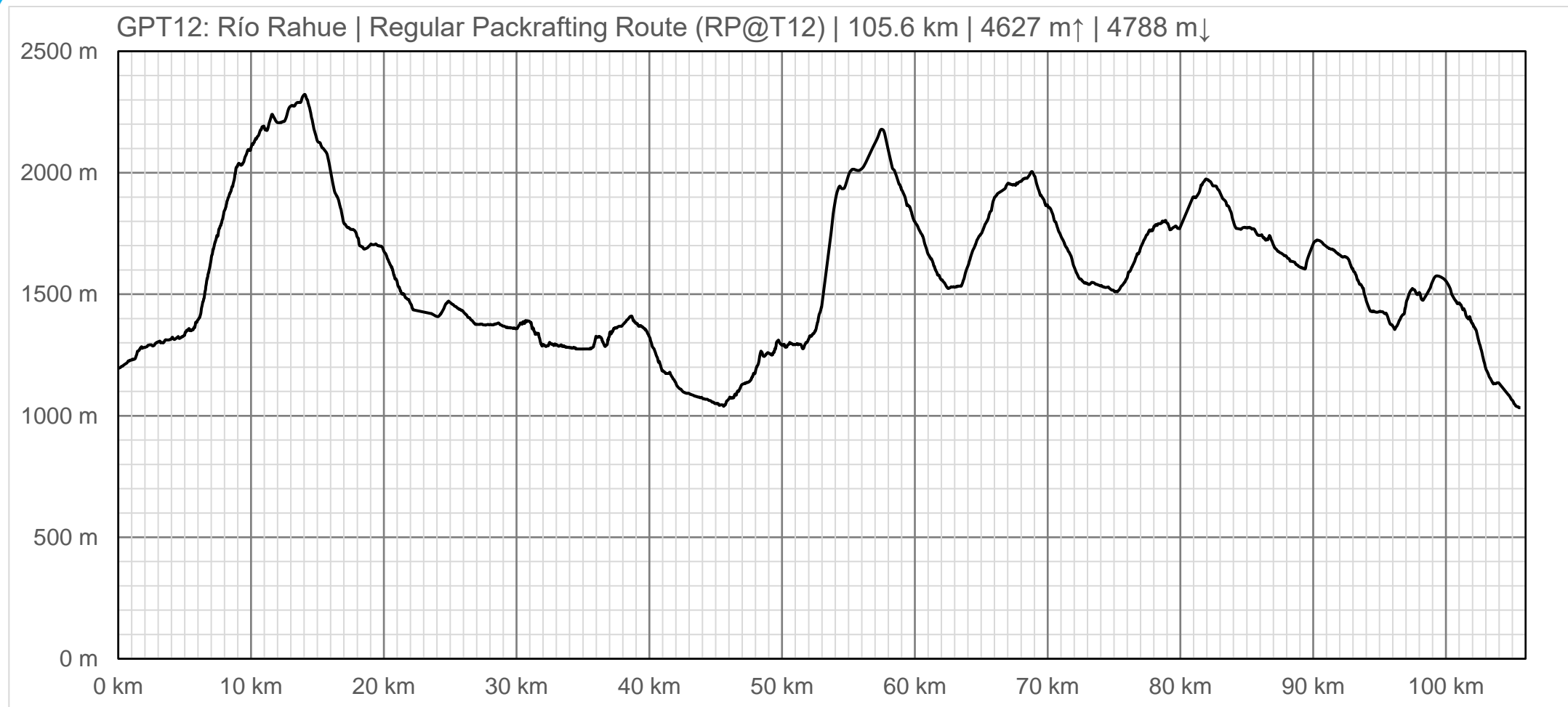
Table 45: GPT12 Section Summary

Satellite Image 28:GPT12





Elevation Profile 19: GPT12 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 20: GPT12 Regular Packrafting Route

2.4.14 GPT13: Laguna Icalma

To be issued.

GPT13: Laguna Icalma		
Traversable	Dec - Apr (Conditionally: Sep, Oct, Nov, May)	
Packraft	Useful (4.9 km 4.9 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	2/5	3/5
Difficulty	1/5	2/5
Distance	38.7 km 10 h	31.1 km 8 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	C: Zona Pehuenche	
Region	Chile: Araucanía (IX)	
Start	Liucura	
Finish	Icalma	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT12	GPT14	-

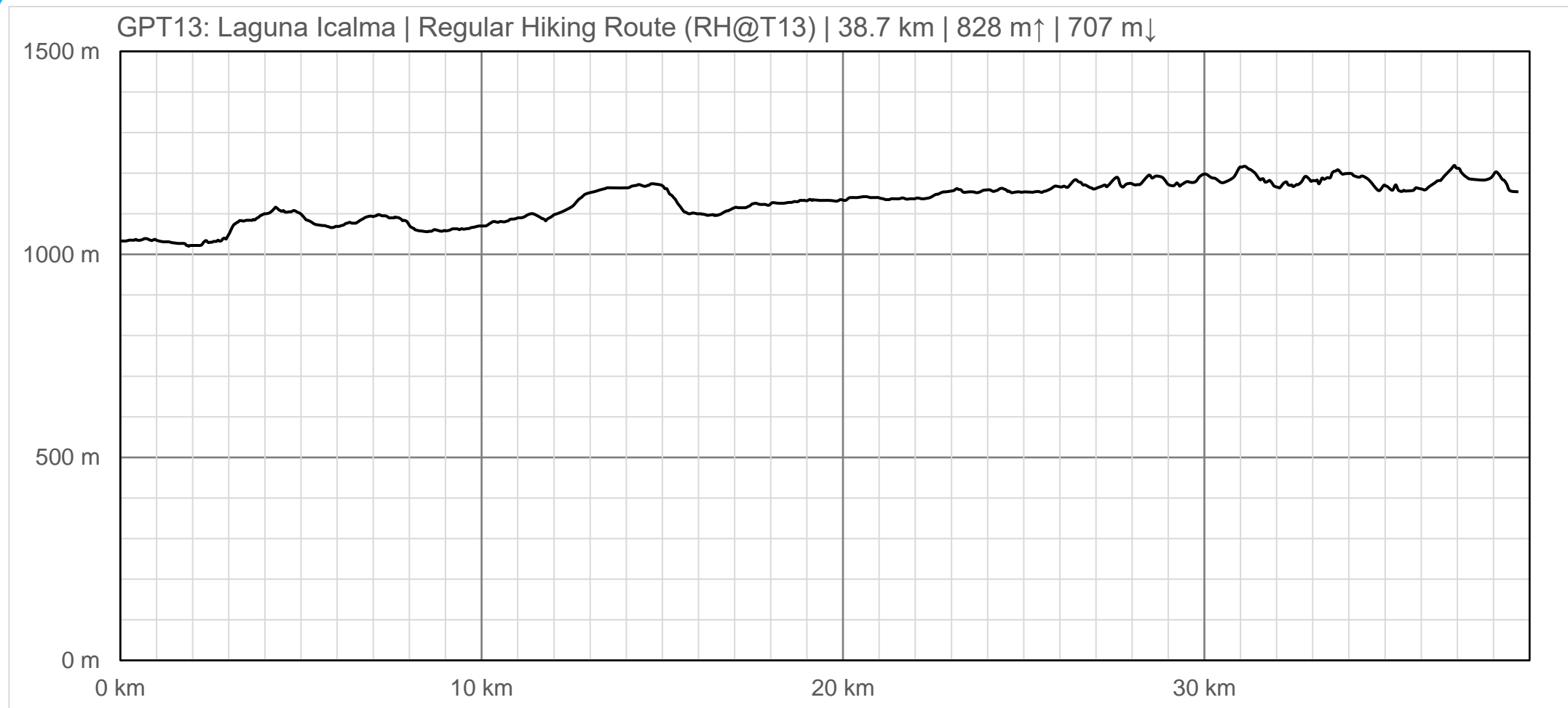
Table 46: GPT13 Section Summary

Satellite Image 29: GPT13

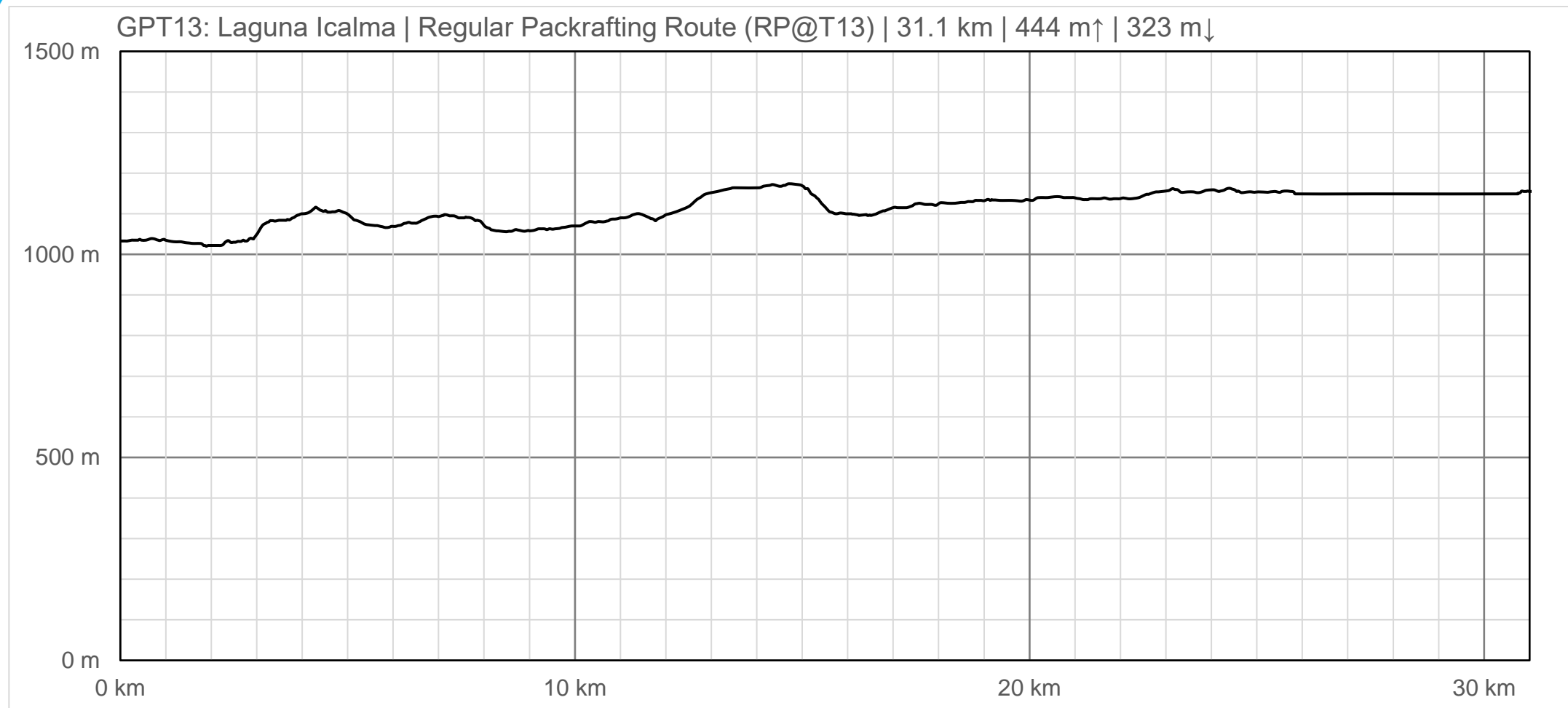


Google Earth

Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus
US Dept of State Geographer



Elevation Profile 21: GPT13 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 22: GPT13 Regular Packrafting Route

2.4.15 GPT14: Volcán Sollipulli

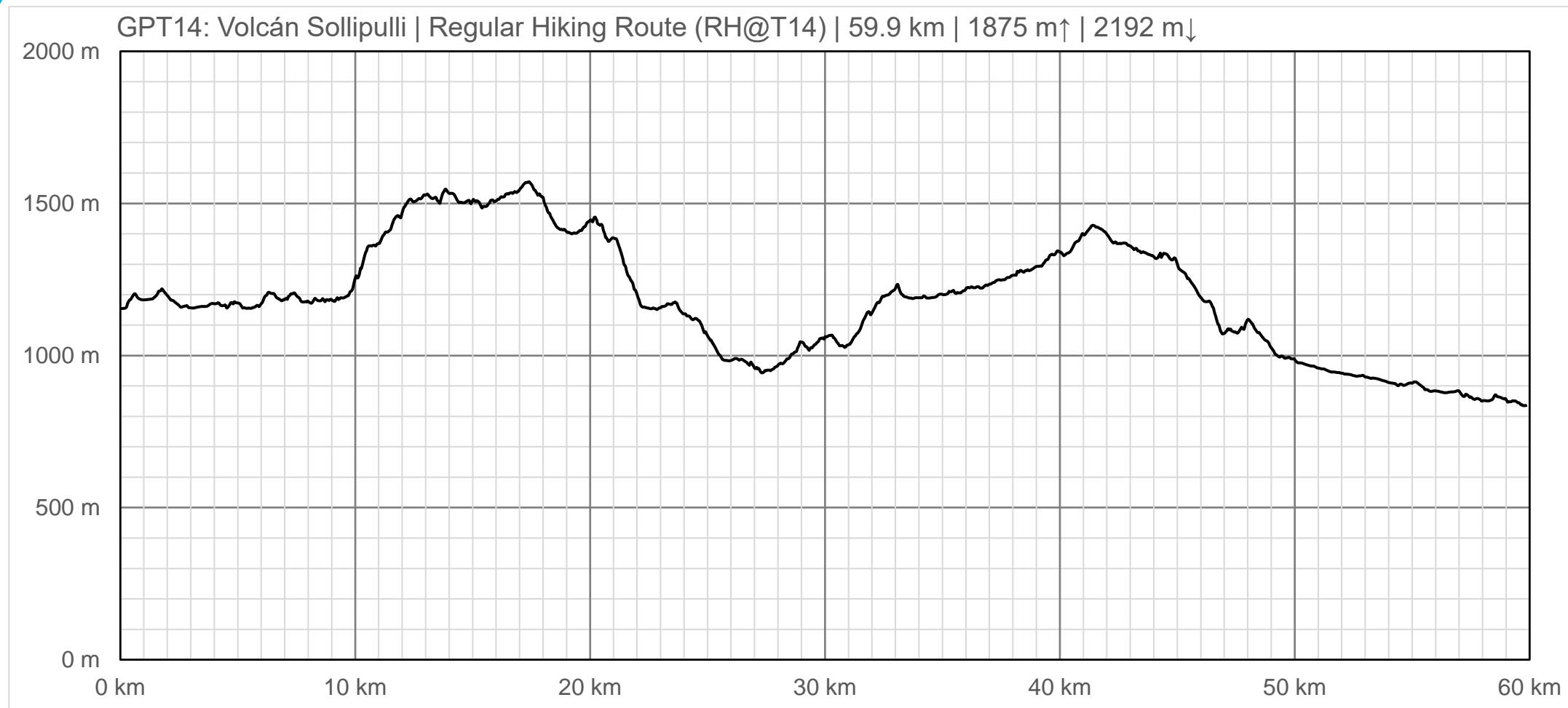
To be issued.

GPT14: Volcán Sollipulli		
Traversable	Dec - Apr (Conditionally: Oct, Nov, May)	
Packraft	Useful (6.1 km 6.1 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	2/5	3/5
Difficulty	2/5	2/5
Distance	59.9 km 17 h	61.3 km 18 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	C: Zona Pehuenche	
Region	Chile: Araucanía (IX)	
Start	Icalma	
Finish	Reigolil	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT13	GPT15	-

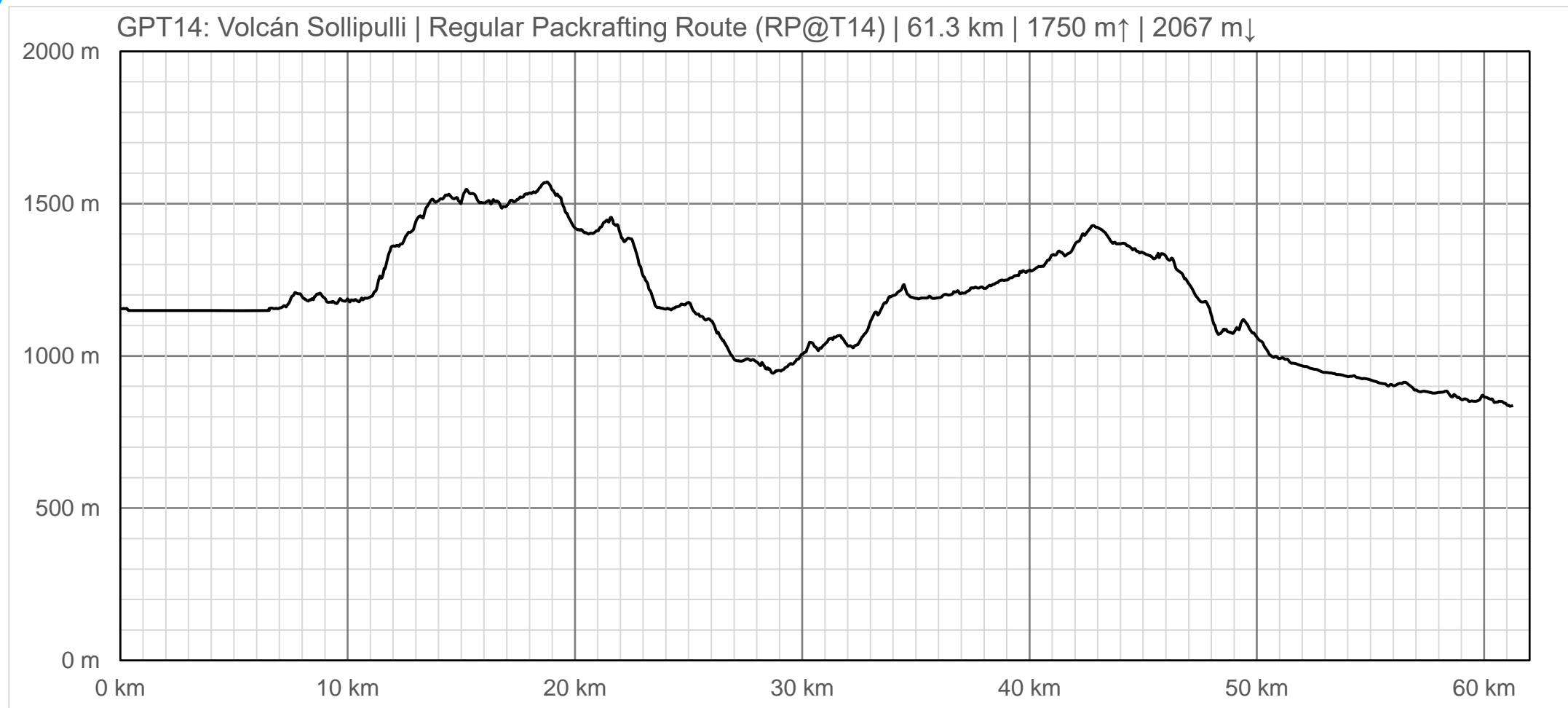
Table 47: GPT14 Section Summary

Satellite Image 30:GPT14





Elevation Profile 23: GPT14 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 24: GPT14 Regular Packrafting Route

2.4.16 GPT15: Curarrehue

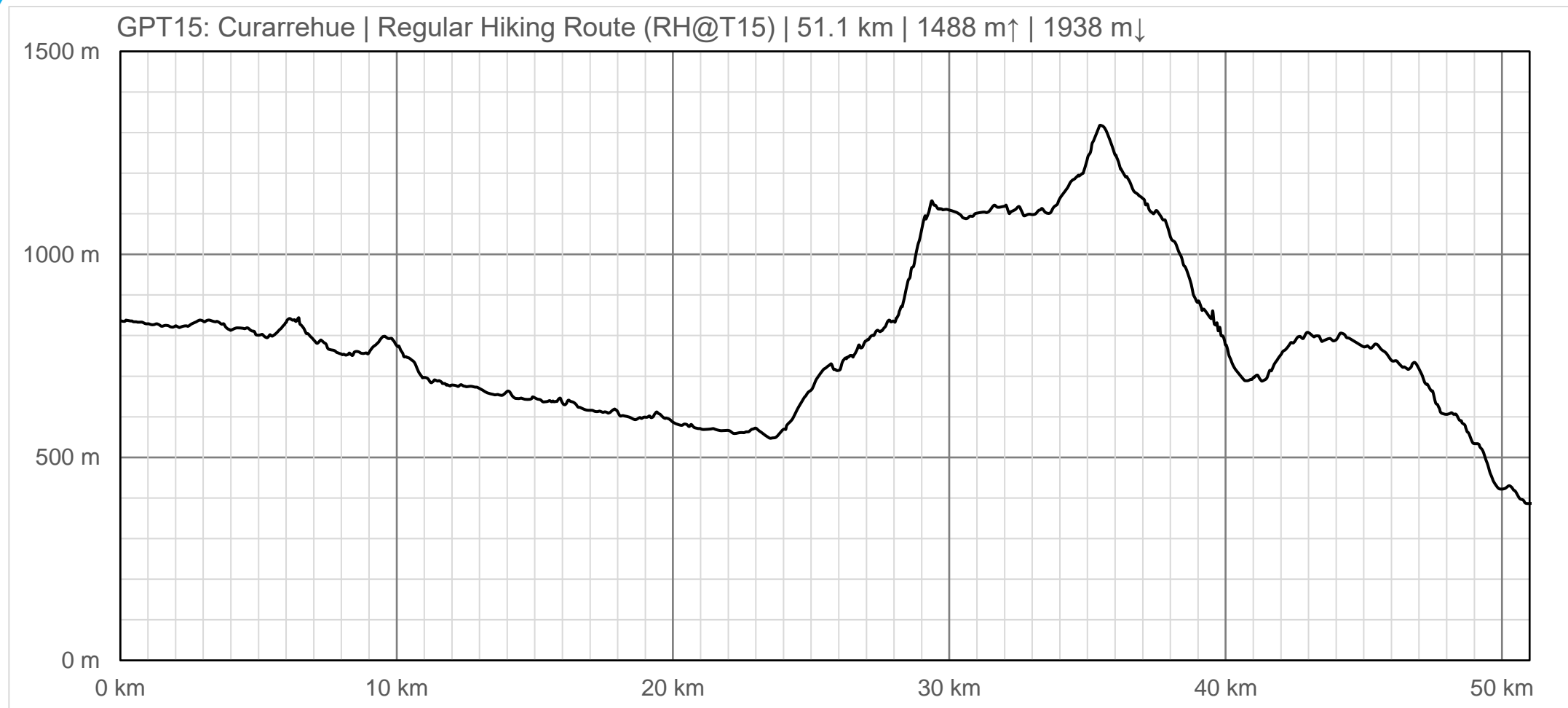
To be issued.

GPT15: Curarrehue		
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Conditionally: Sep, Oct, May)	
Packraft	Deployable (1.5 km 1.5 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	2/5	No Rating
Difficulty	1/5	No Rating
Distance	51.1 km 15 h	51.0 km 15 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	C: Zona Pehuenche	
Region	Chile: Araucanía (IX)	
Start	Reigolil	
Finish	Currarehue	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT14	GPT16	-

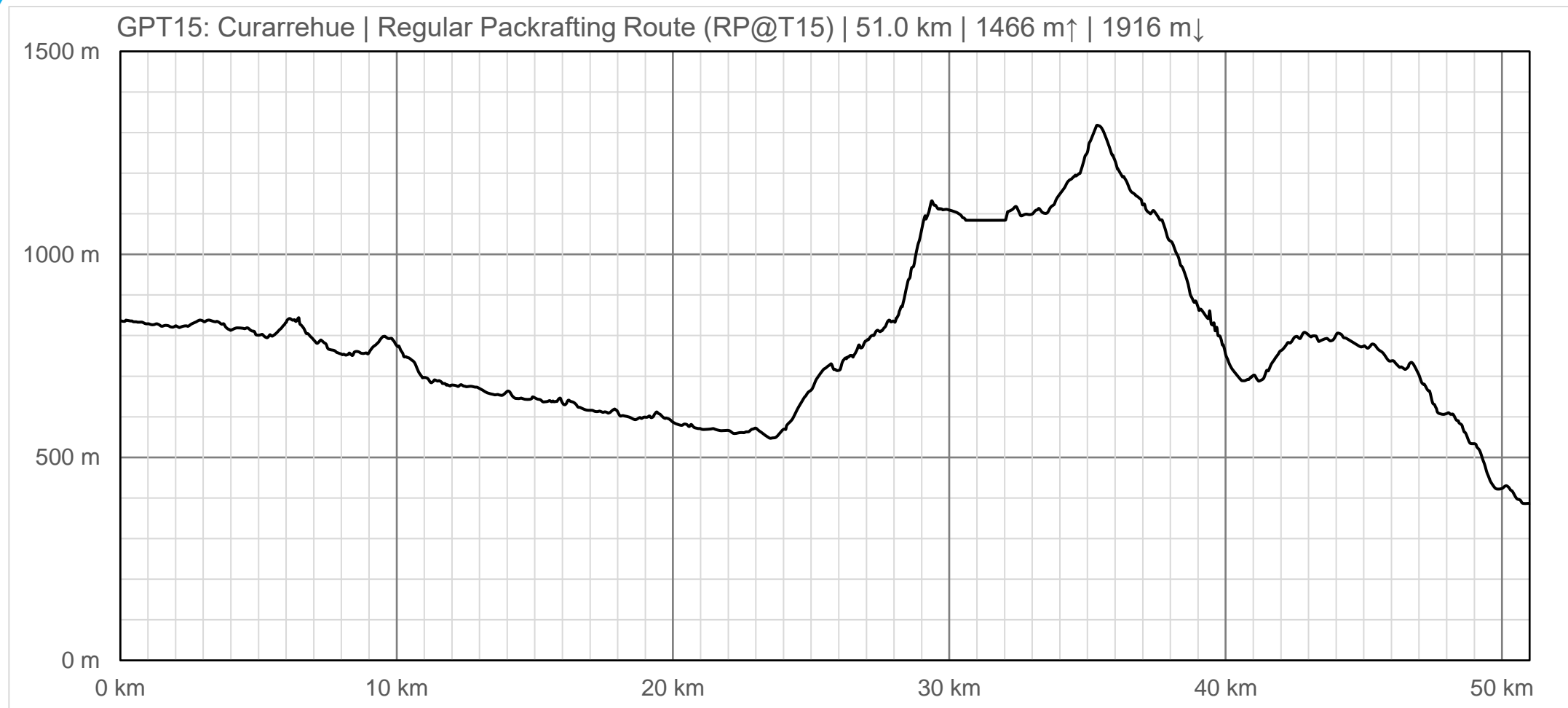
Table 48: GPT15 Section Summary

Satellite Image 31:GPT15





Elevation Profile 25: GPT15 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 26: GPT15 Regular Packrafting Route

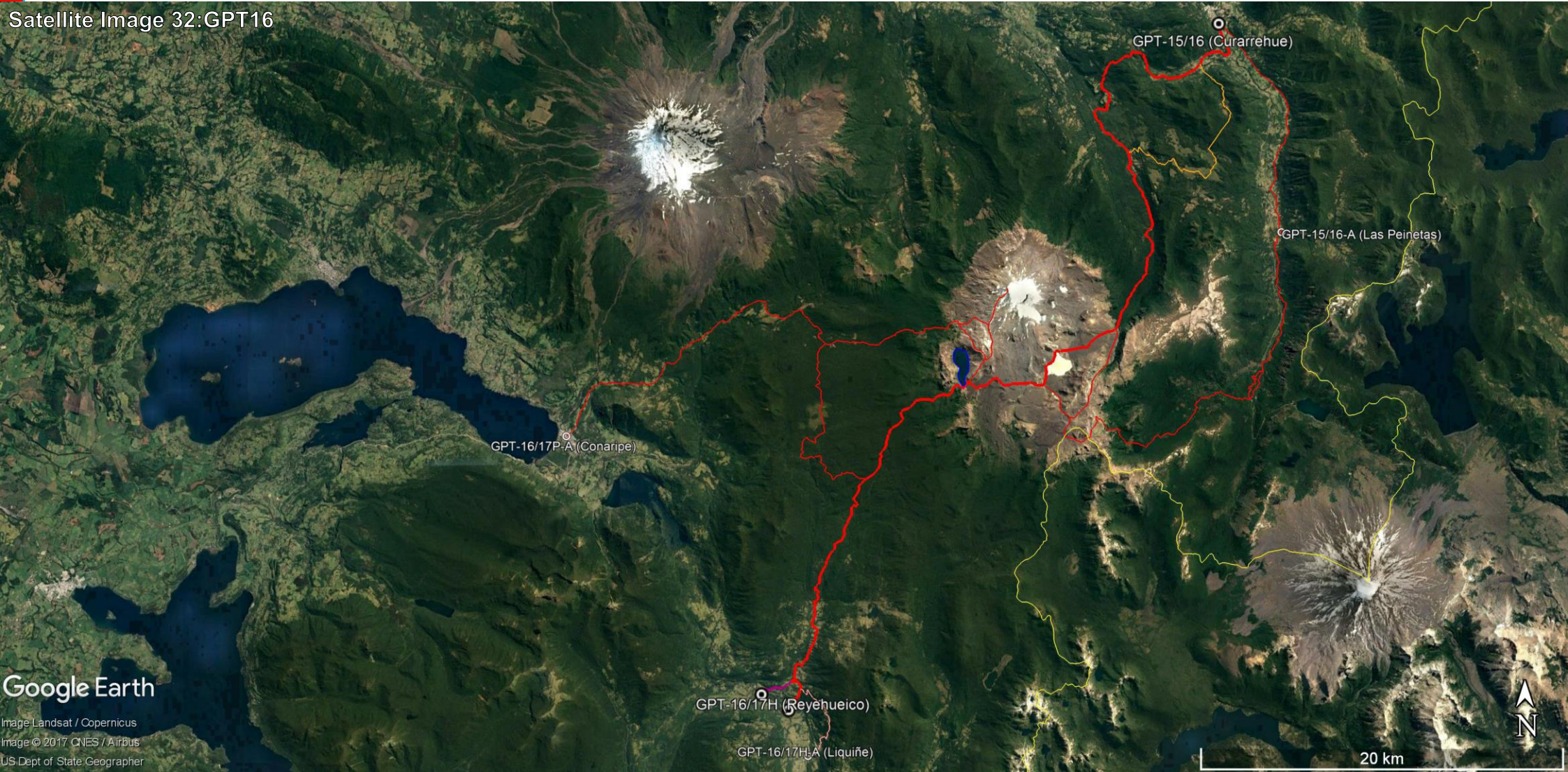
2.4.17 GPT16: Volcán Quetrupillan

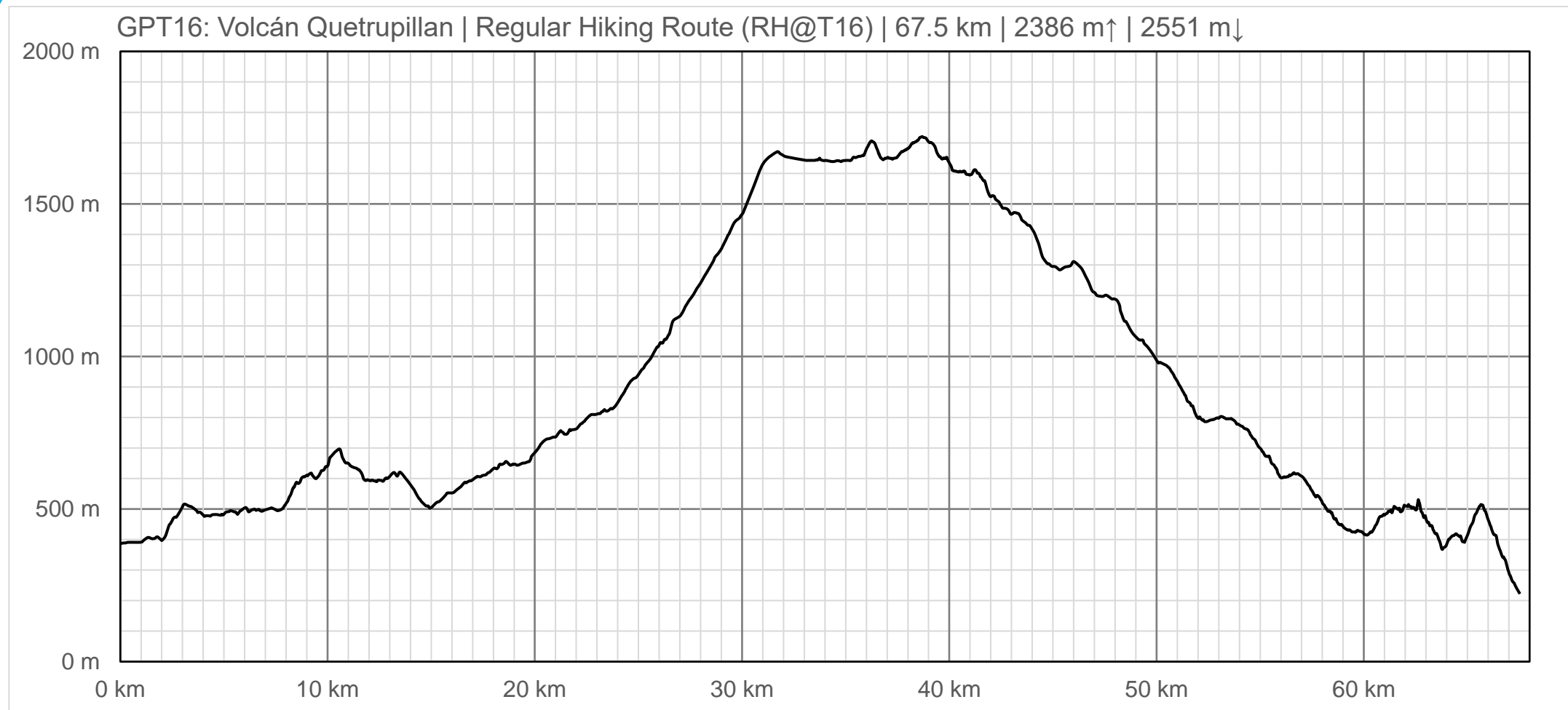
To be issued.

GPT16: Volcán Quetrupillan		
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Conditionally: Nov, Apr)	
Packraft	Deployable	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	4/5	No Rating
Difficulty	4/5	No Rating
Distance	67.5 km 21 h	66.9 km 20 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	C: Zona Pehuenche	
Region	Chile: Araucanía (IX) & Los Ríos (XIV)	
Start	Currarehue	
Finish	Reyehueico	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT15	GPT17H, GPT17P	-

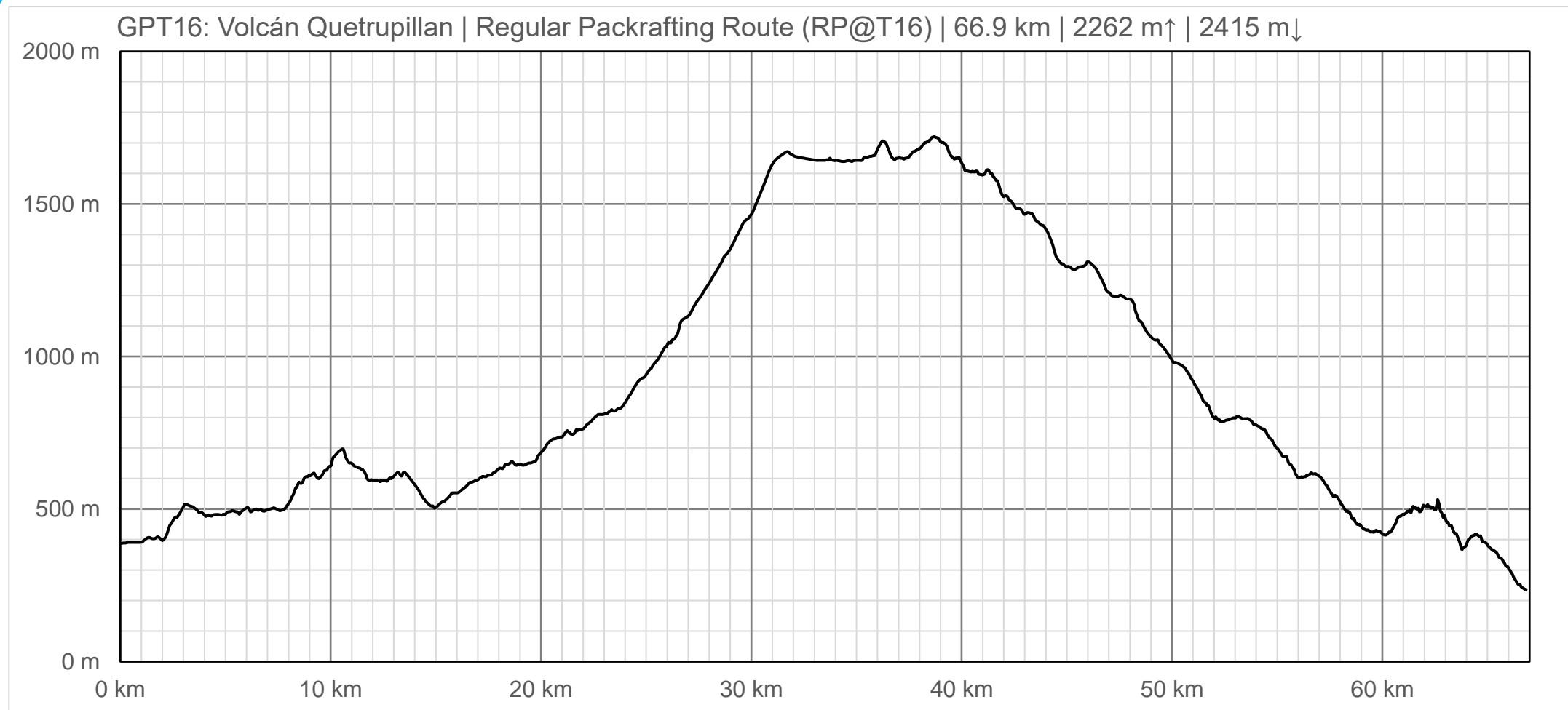
Table 49: GPT16 Section Summary

Satellite Image 32:GPT16





Elevation Profile 27: GPT16 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 28: GPT16 Regular Packrafting Route

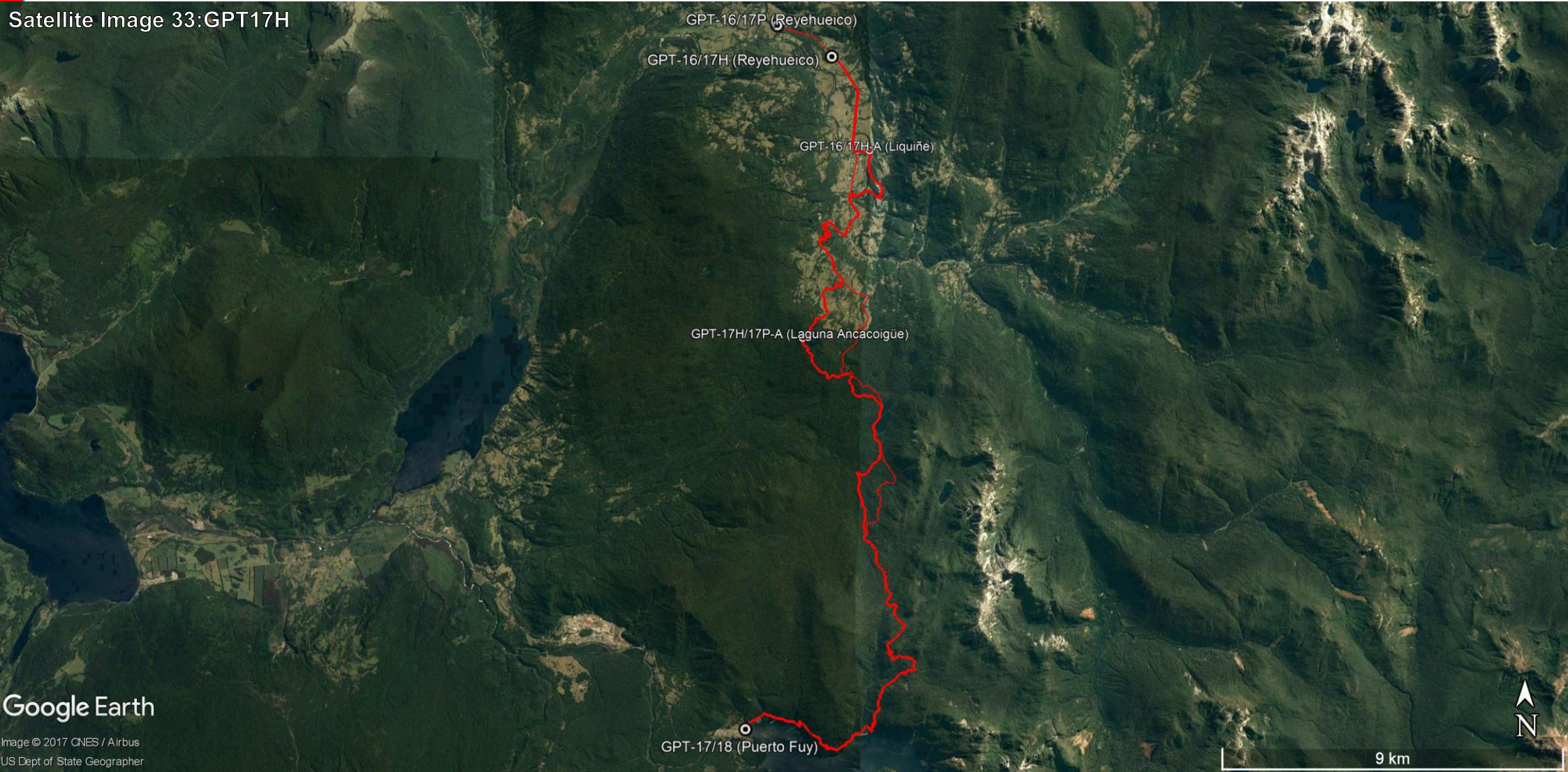
2.4.18 GPT17H: Liquiñe

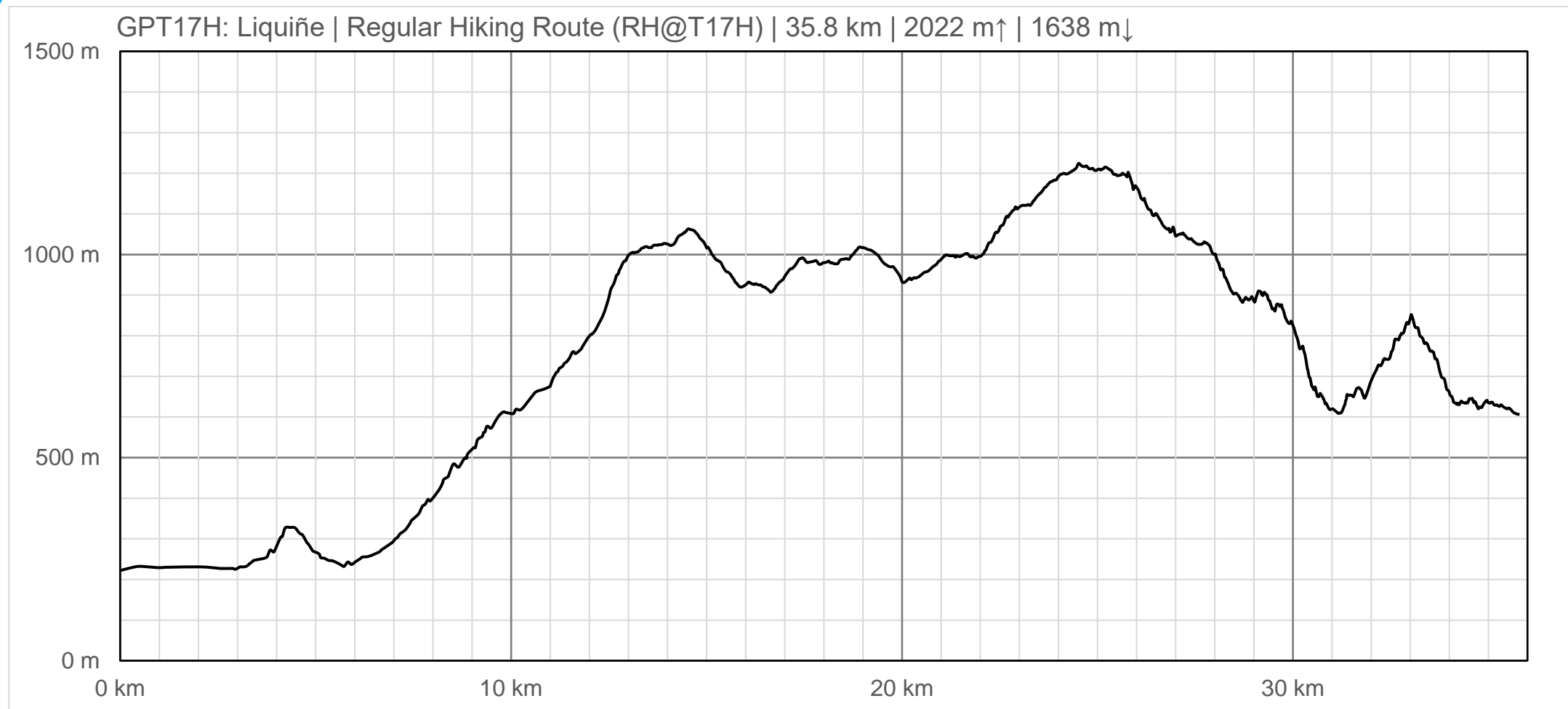
To be issued.

GPT17H: Liquiñe		
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Conditionally: Sep, Oct, May)	
Packraft	Deployable	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	1/5	No Rating
Difficulty	1/5	No Rating
Distance	35.8 km 12 h	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	D: Zona Rios y Lagos Chilenos	
Region	Chile: Los Ríos (XIV)	
Start	Reyehueico	
Finish	Puerto Fuy	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT16	GPT18	GPT17P

Table 50: GPT17H Section Summary

Satellite Image 33:GPT17H





Elevation Profile 29: GPT17H Regular Hiking Route

2.4.19 GPT17P: Neltume

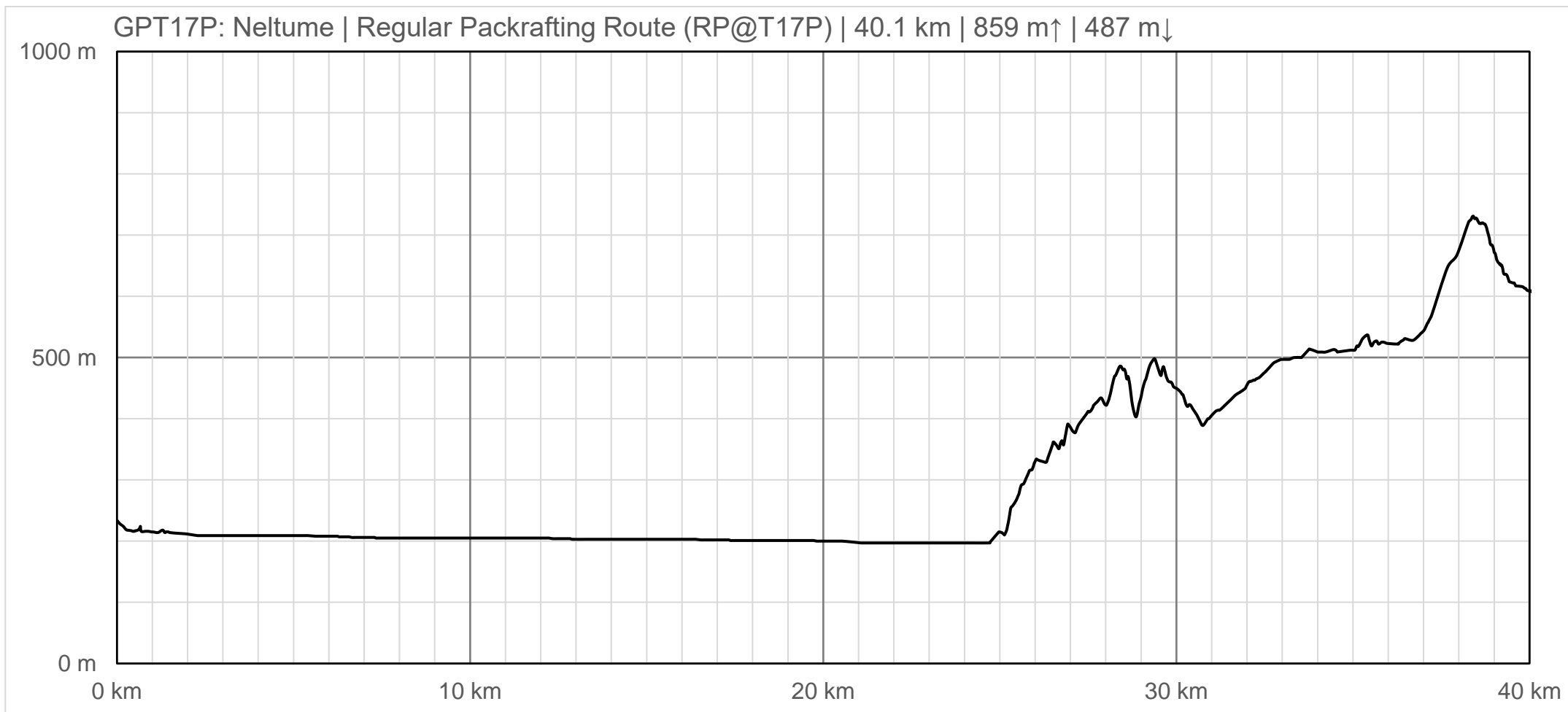
To be issued.

GPT17P: Neltume		
Traversable	Nov - May (Conditionally: Sep, Oct)	
Packraft	Required (24.0 km 24.0 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	4/5
Difficulty	No Rating	3/5
Distance	-	40.1 km 10 h
Direction	None	Only ↓
Comment	Hiking: Packraft required	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	D: Zona Rios y Lagos Chilenos	
Region	Chile: Los Ríos (XIV)	
Start	Reyehueico	
Finish	Puerto Fuy	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT16	GPT18	GPT17H

Table 51: GPT17P Section Summary

Satellite Image 34:GPT17P





Elevation Profile 30: GPT17P Regular Packrafting Route

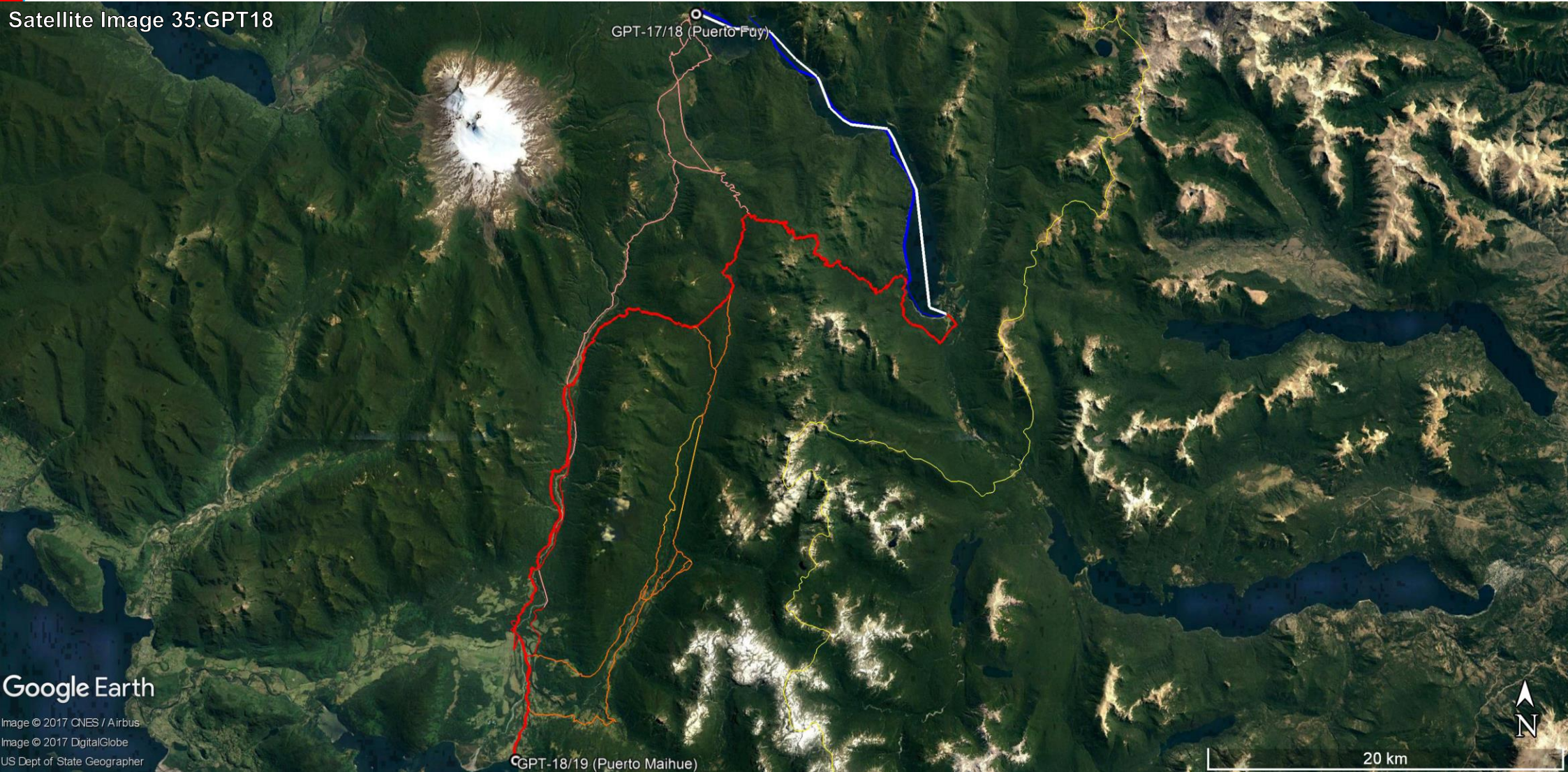
2.4.20 GPT18: Lago Pirihueico

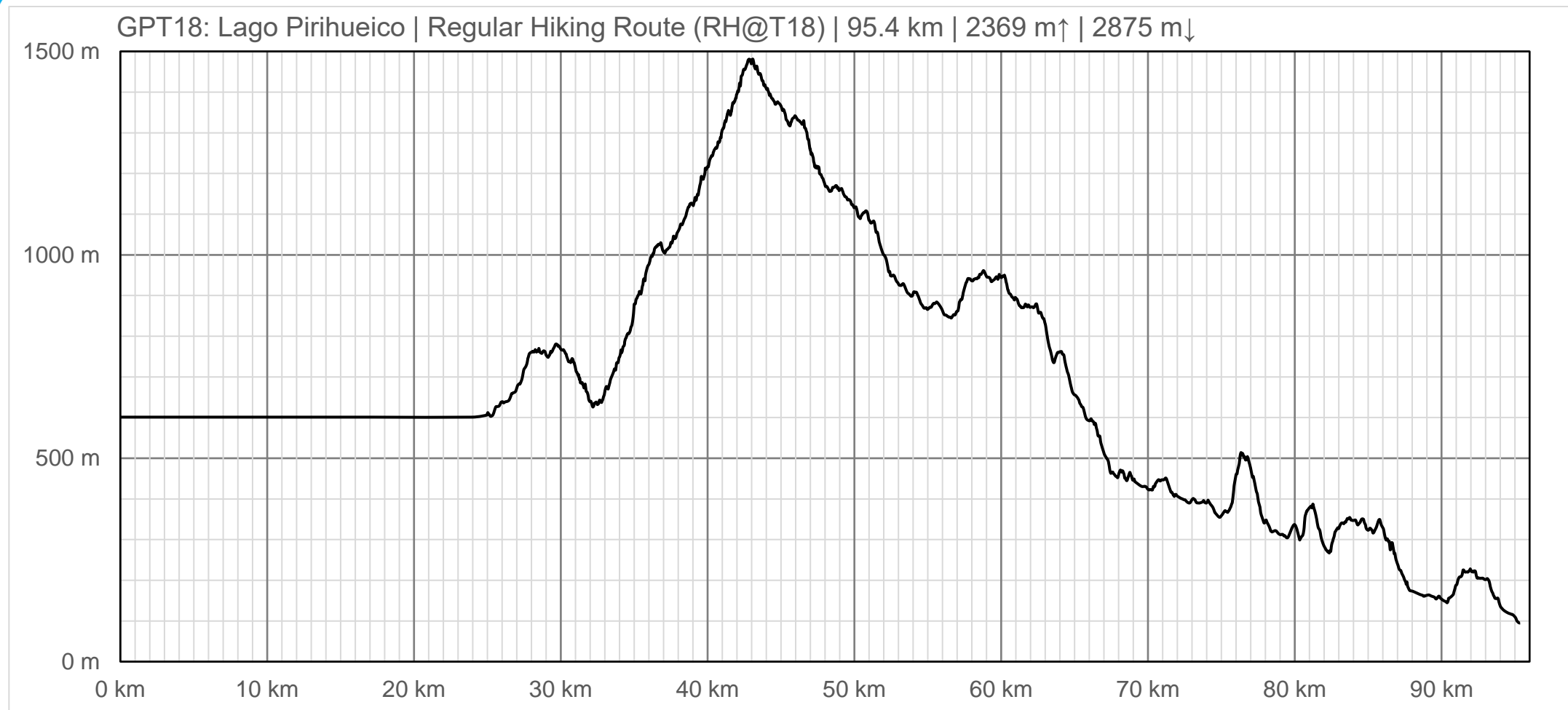
To be issued.

GPT18: Lago Pirihueico		
Traversable	Dec - Apr (Conditionally: Oct, Nov, May)	
Packraft	Very Useful (22.5 km 22.5 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	2/5	4/5
Difficulty	3/5	4/5
Distance	70.3 km 24 h	85.8 km 28 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	D: Zona Rios y Lagos Chilenos	
Region	Chile: Los Ríos (XIV)	
Start	Puerto Fuy	
Finish	Puerto Maihue	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT17H , GPT17P	GPT19	-

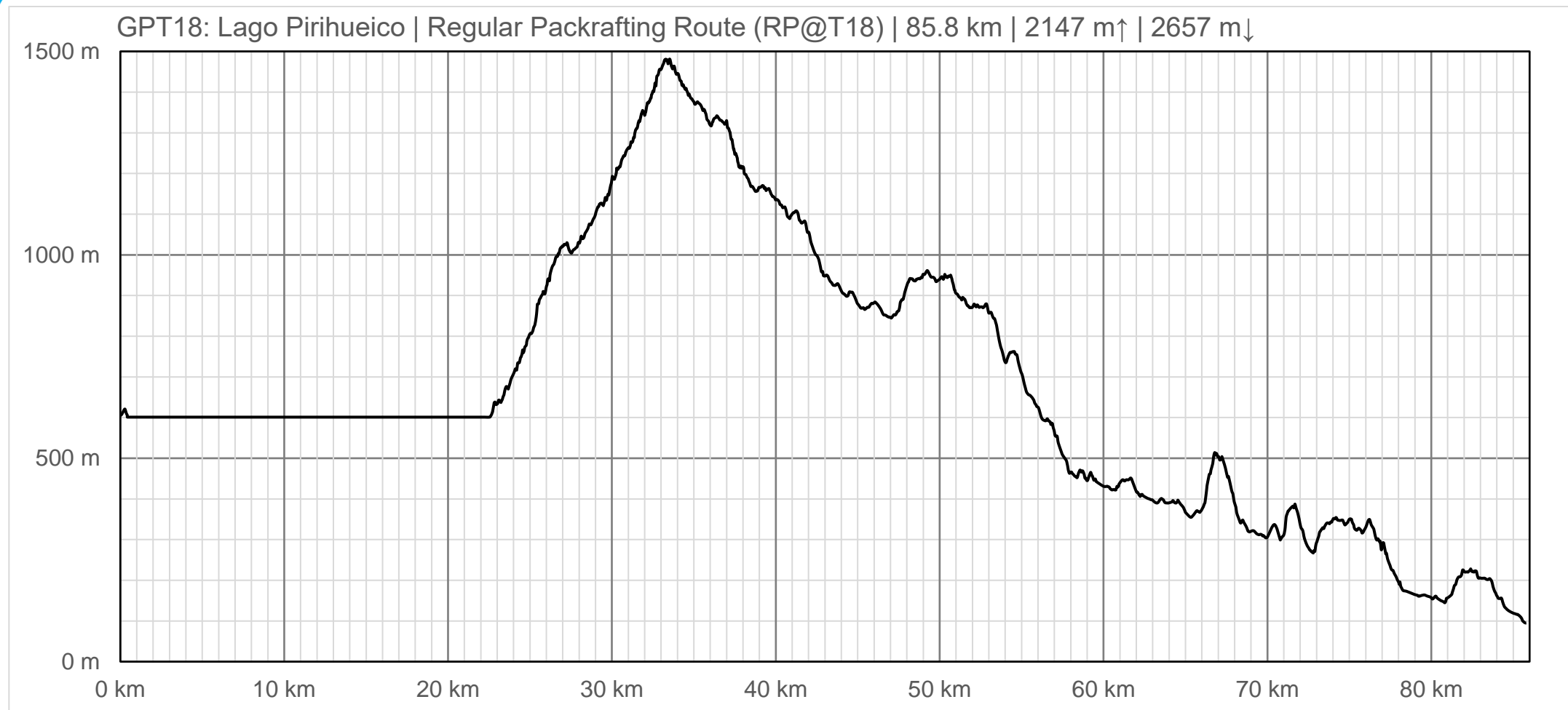
Table 52: GPT18 Section Summary

Satellite Image 35:GPT18





Elevation Profile 31: GPT18 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 32: GPT18 Regular Packrafting Route

2.4.21 GPT19: Volcán Puyehue

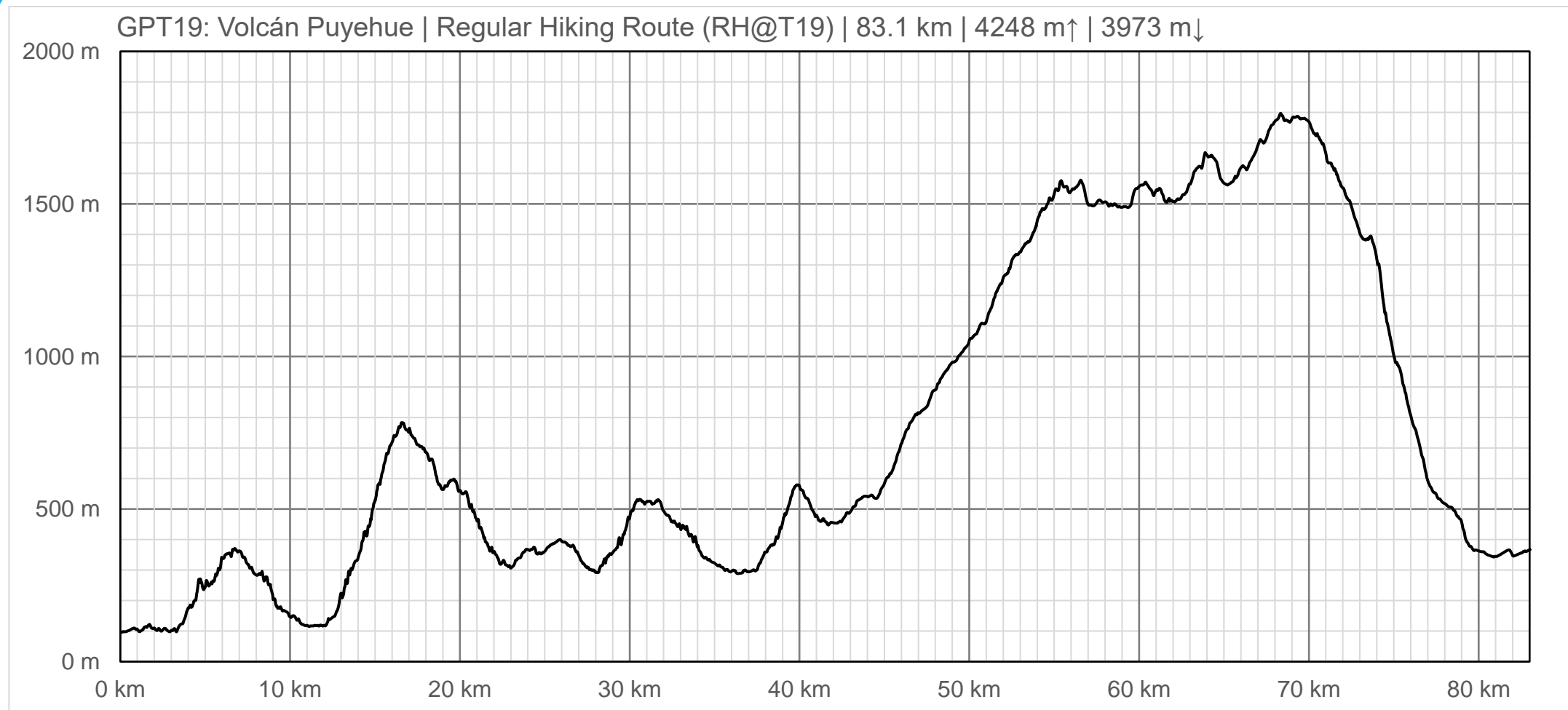
To be issued.

GPT19: Volcán Puyehue		
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Conditionally: Nov, Apr)	
Packraft	Useful (9.6 km 9.6 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	5/5	5/5
Difficulty	5/5	5/5
Distance	83.1 km 29 h	70.6 km 24 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	D: Zona Rios y Lagos Chilenos	
Region	Chile: Los Ríos (XIV) & Los Lagos (X)	
Start	Puerto Maihue	
Finish	Anticura, CONAF	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT18	GPT20	-

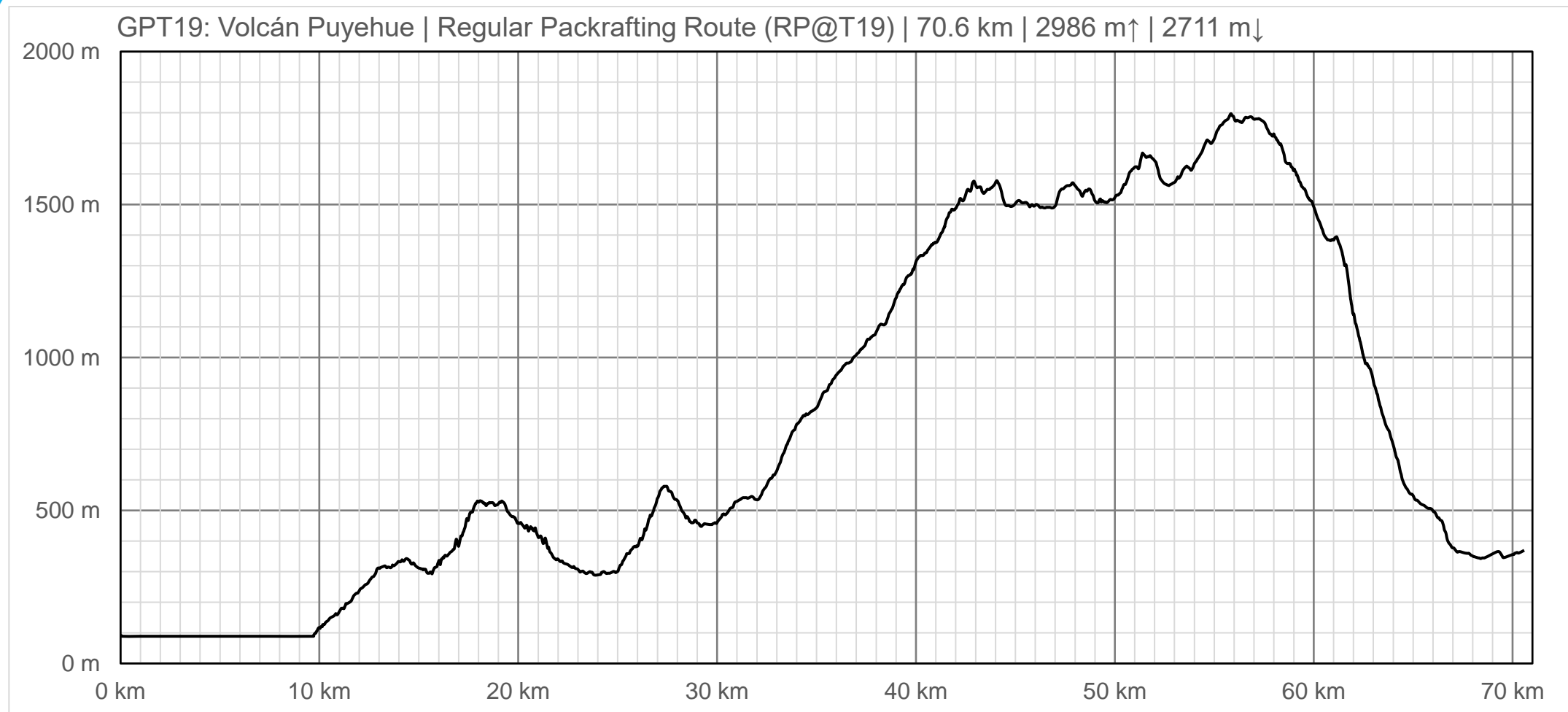
Table 53: GPT19 Section Summary

Satellite Image 36:GPT19





Elevation Profile 33: GPT19 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 34: GPT19 Regular Packrafting Route

2.4.22 GPT20: Volcán Antillanca

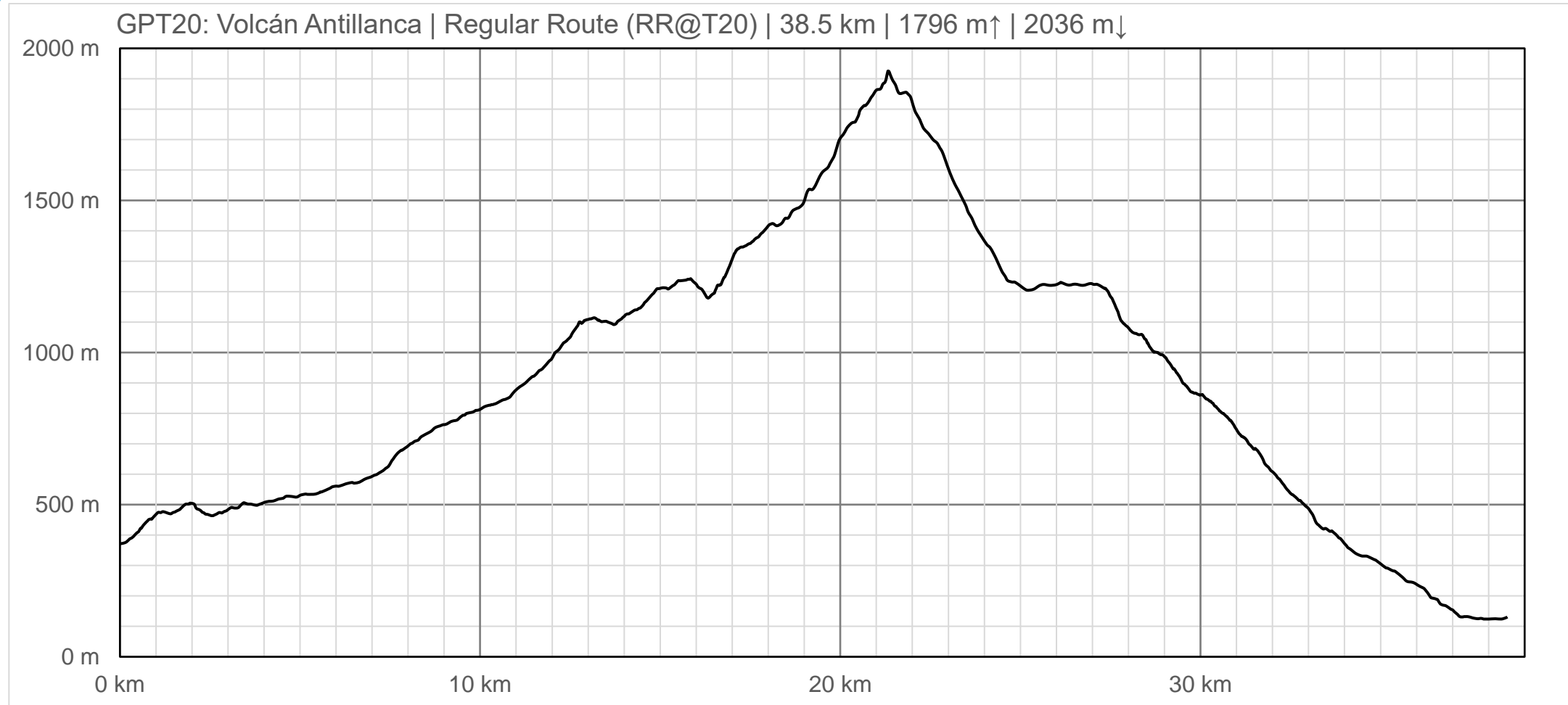
To be issued.

GPT20: Volcán Antillanca		
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Conditionally: Nov, Apr)	
Packraft	Useful	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	3/5	3/5
Difficulty	4/5	4/5
Distance	38.5 km 13 h	38.5 km 13 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	D: Zona Rios y Lagos Chilenos	
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)	
Start	Anticura, CONAF	
Finish	Las Gaviotas	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT19	GPT21	-

Table 54: GPT20 Section Summary

Satellite Image 37:GPT20





Elevation Profile 35: GPT20 Regular Route

2.4.23 GPT21: Lago Todos Los Santos

To be issued.

GPT21: Lago Todos Los Santos		
Traversable	Oct - Apr (Conditionally: Sep, May)	
Packraft	Very Useful (40.5 km 40.5 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	3/5	4/5
Difficulty	2/5	4/5
Distance	59.1 km 18 h	84.2 km 26 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	D: Zona Rios y Lagos Chilenos	
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)	
Start	Las Gaviotas	
Finish	Cochamó	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT20	GPT22	-

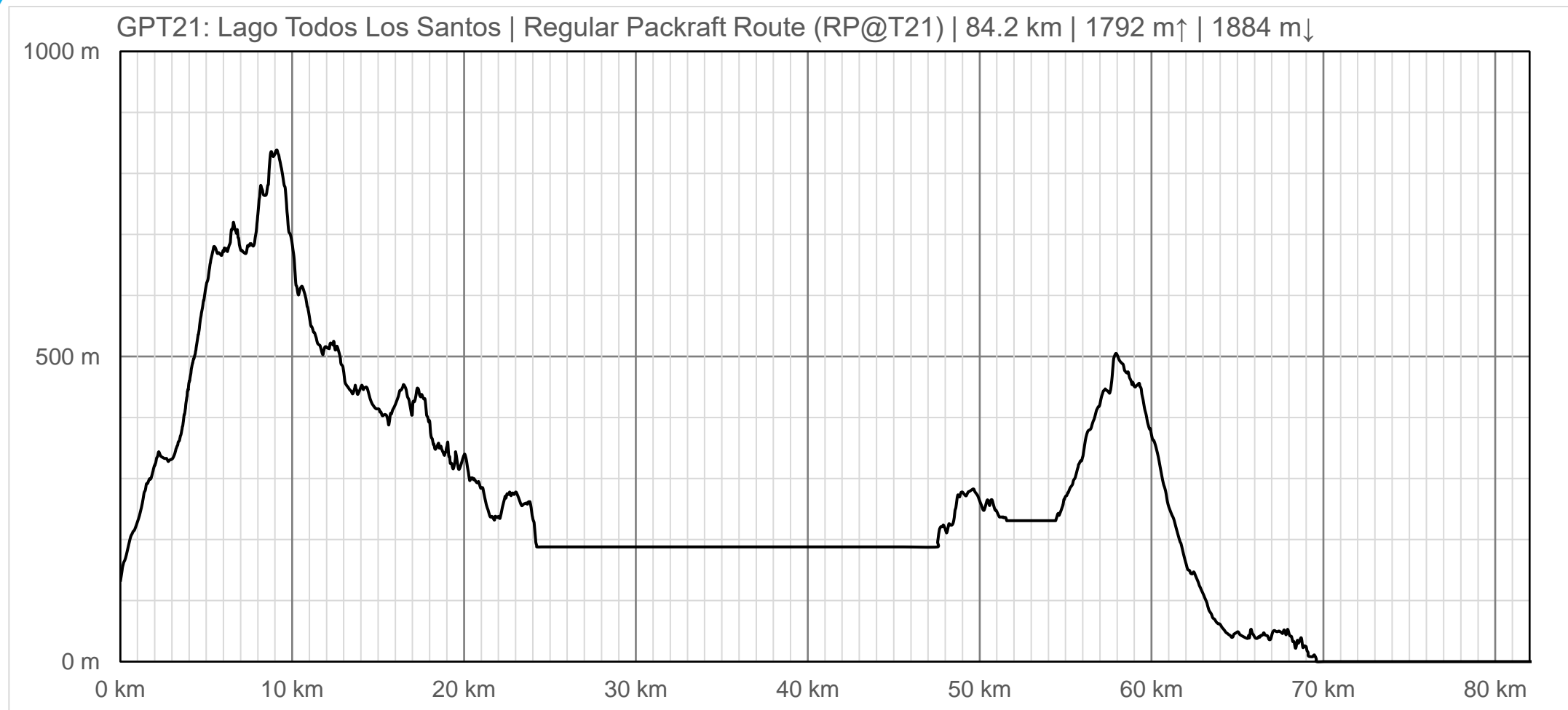
Table 55: GPT21 Section Summary

Satellite Image 38:GPT21





Elevation Profile 36: GPT21 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 37: GPT21 Regular Packrafting Route

2.4.24 GPT22: Cochamó

To be issued.

2.4.24.1 Regular Hiking Route

The regular hiking routes crosses in the first part a hiking area that has grown in popularity in recent years. The large majority of visitors starts at the diversion from the main road (P22-4.3) or the trail head (P22-10.4) and walks only to the camp site La Junta (P22-20.8) from where they make day hikes into the surrounding area. The increased flux of hikers forced the operators of the camp site to establish a reservation system but the high demand during the peak season makes it difficult to reserve a spot on camp site between mid-December and mid-March on short notice. The operators of the camp site state that they may deny access to the trail if no reservation for the camp site was made in advance. I have asked the operator of the camp site if long-distance hikers without a reservation will be denied access to the trail even if they arrive early enough on the trail head to walk past the camp site La Junta to camp on one of the meadows or at the refuge several kilometers past La Junta. I did not get any answer. You should read to this subject: <http://www.cochamo.com/reservationscamping/>

GPT22: Cochamó		
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Conditionally: Sep, Oct, May)	
Packraft	Very Useful (46.1 km 46.1 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	4/5	5/5
Difficulty	4/5	5/5
Distance	160.5 km 52 h	124.5 km 37 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	Hiking: ↓ Possibly reservation for camp site La Junta required Packrafting: ↑ More packraft use	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	D: Zona Ríos y Lagos Chilenos	
Region	Chile & Argentina: Los Lagos (X) & Chubut	
Start	Cochamó	
Finish	Lago Puelo, Puerto	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT21	GPT23	-

Table 56: GPT22 Section Summary

This restriction substantially complicates a southbound traverse on the regular hiking route. A southbound traverse of this section also complicates arranging the 3 boat transfers over the Río Puelo (twice) and Río Traidor (once). Therefore I suggest hiking most of this section northbound even if walking generally in southbound direction. To flip the 120 km from Balseo Primer Corral (P22-119.9) to Cochamó (P22-0.0) you need to take twice the bus-ferry-bus combination between Cochamó and Primer Corral.

There is at least one daily bus-ferry-bus connection from Puerto Montt to Primer Corral. The bus leaves Puerto Montt in the morning (07:45 main bus terminal) and travels via Puerto Varas, Ensenada, Ralun (P21-67.1), Cochamó (P22-0.0) and the village Río Puelo to Lago Tagua Tagua. You can take this bus either on section GPT21 in Ralun (to avoid 15 km of road walking from Ralun to Cochamó), at the start of section GPT22 in Cochamó or in Puerto Montt after resupplying and resting in this larger town. For the bus schedule best ask any of the settlers along the route or see: <http://www.cochamo.com/bus/>

Should you start in Puerto Montt purchase your bus ticket in advance at the main bus terminal since this bus sells out quickly during the main tourist season.

At the terminal station you can board a ferry to cross Lago Tagua Tagua and take the minibus that travels the road from Lago Tagua Tagua via Llanda Grande to the settlement Primer Corral. Make sure to leave this minibus before the terminal station at the boat transfer point Balseo Primer Corral (P22-119.9). If arriving with this minibus at Balseo Primer Corral you are more likely to get immediately a lift over Río Puelo to start your hike of section GPT22 at the left bank of Río Puelo (P22-119.6).

Just before the Río Traidor at the Hospedaje Nancy (near P22-96.2, Radio Call Name: Base Traidor) you may ask the settlers Doña Nancy and Don Chindo how to best get over Río Traidor (either with their motor boat or with a neighbors paddle boat).

The third and last river crossing you may arrange with the settlers Paulina and Jovino (P22-85.6, Radio Call Name: La Junta). Alternatively you may ask before the settler Ricardo Garado (P22-91.4, Radio Call Name: Cerro Mesa) if he gets you over Río Puelo on a cable car.

Most settlers along the Río Puelo have a radio to communicate amongst them. So you may ask most settlers in advance if they are at home to verify if a river crossing can be arranged. And please, don't expect these river crossings for free but ask for the price in advance and pay without bargaining. You can avoid this 3 boat transfers only by taking the less attractive optional road short cut via Llanada Grande (to the right of Río Puelo) instead of walking on the recommended regular hiking route (to the left of Río Puelo). If taking this road short cut you miss one of the highlights of the GPT that gets you in contact and conversation with these settlers.

After the third river crossing you will be left near the settlers home of Señora Oco (P22-84.0, Radio Call Name: El Maiten) from where you can follow scenic trails to Cochamó (P22-0.0) at the starting point of section GPT22. Several settlers live along this route.

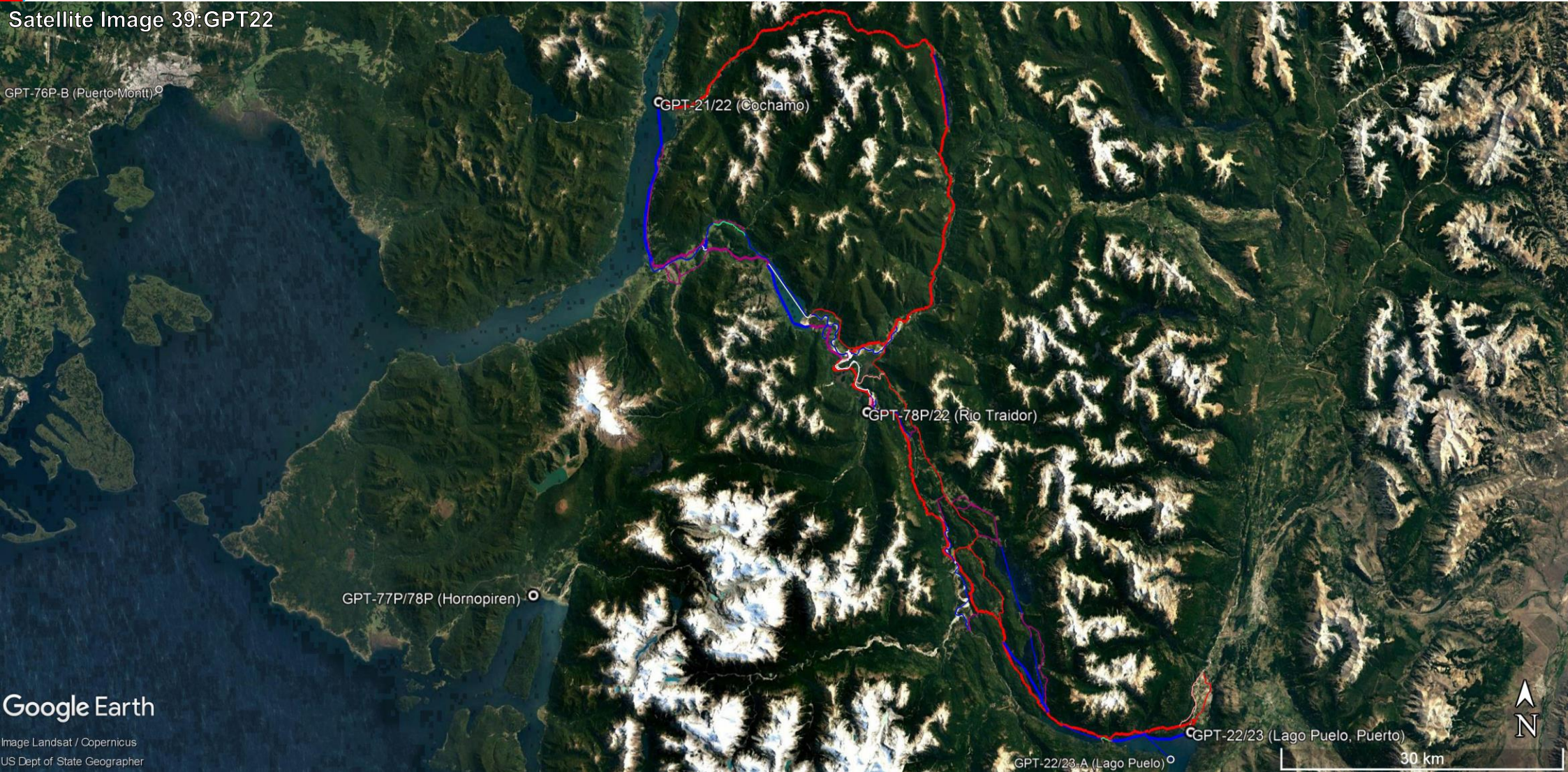
You should spend your last night BEFORE reaching the camp site La Junta (P22-20.8) i.e. at the refuge (P22-30.6) or at one of the two nice meadows before (P22-25.7 or P22-24.3) where you may pitch your tent for one night.

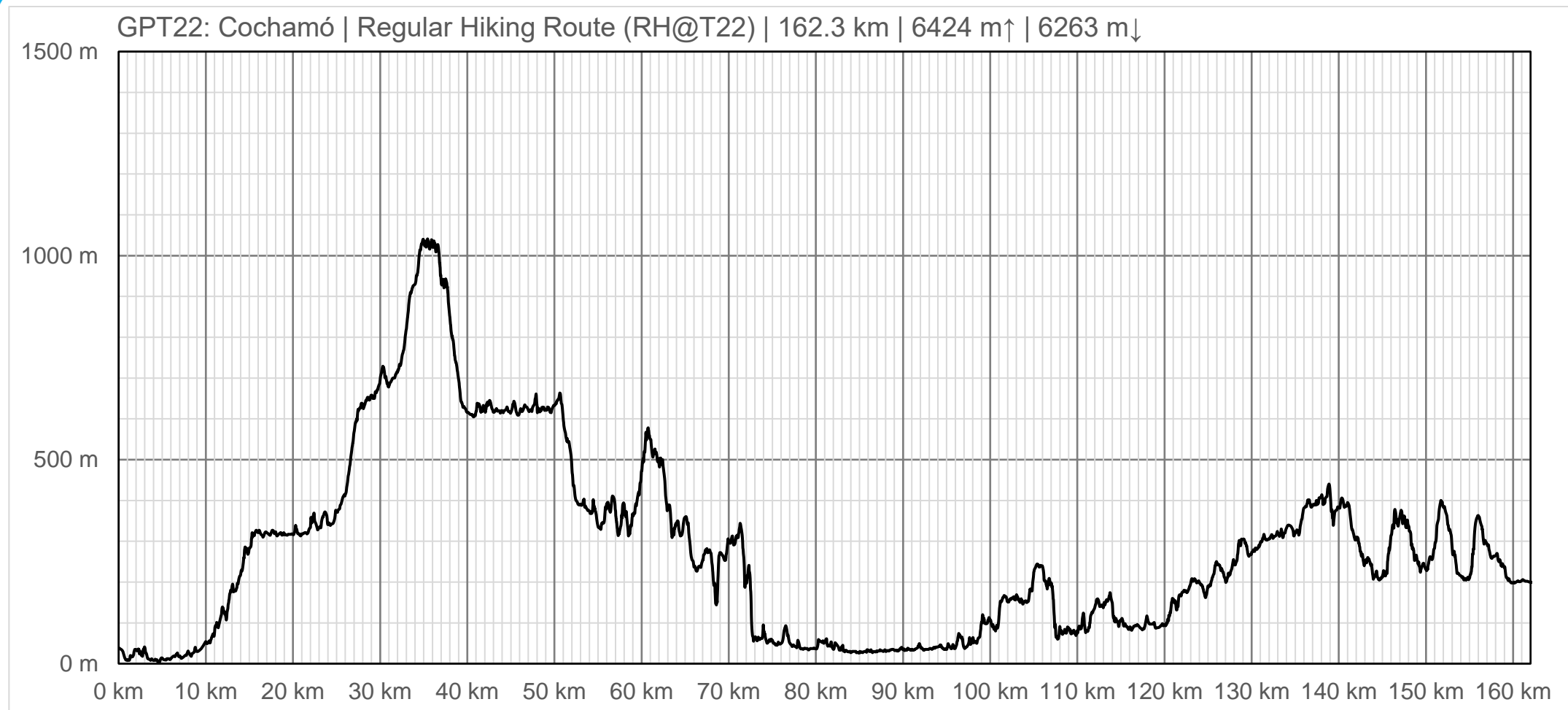
You may asked any of the settlers along the route if they sell some basic homemade supplies like bread, eggs and vegetables and if you are lucky may even purchase some luxury items like meat and beer. In particular if you camp near a settlers home or pay for accommodation fresh bread may be prepared for the next morning.

Once back in Cochamó take the same bus-ferry-bus combination to get the point where you flipped the hiking direction and continue southbound. The remaining part of section GPT22 can be hiking in any direction without comparable restrictions.

If hiking this section in southbound direction I strongly recommend to make a reservation for the camp site La Junta in advance. Once you reach the home of Señora Oco (near P22-84.0, Radio Call Name: El Maiten) ask her if she can arrange a river crossing with one of the settler nearby. When you reach the settlers home of Ricardo Garado (P22-91.4, Radio Call Name: Cerro Mesa) ask how to best cross Río Traidor. He may call by radio Hospedaje Nancy (near P22-96.2, Radio Call Name: Base Traidor) that is located closer to Río Traidor. When you reach Balseo Primer Corral (P22-119.9) ask the settlers nearby when you may get lift over Río Puelo.

Satellite Image 39: GPT22





Elevation Profile 38: GPT22 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 39: GPT22 Regular Packrafting Route

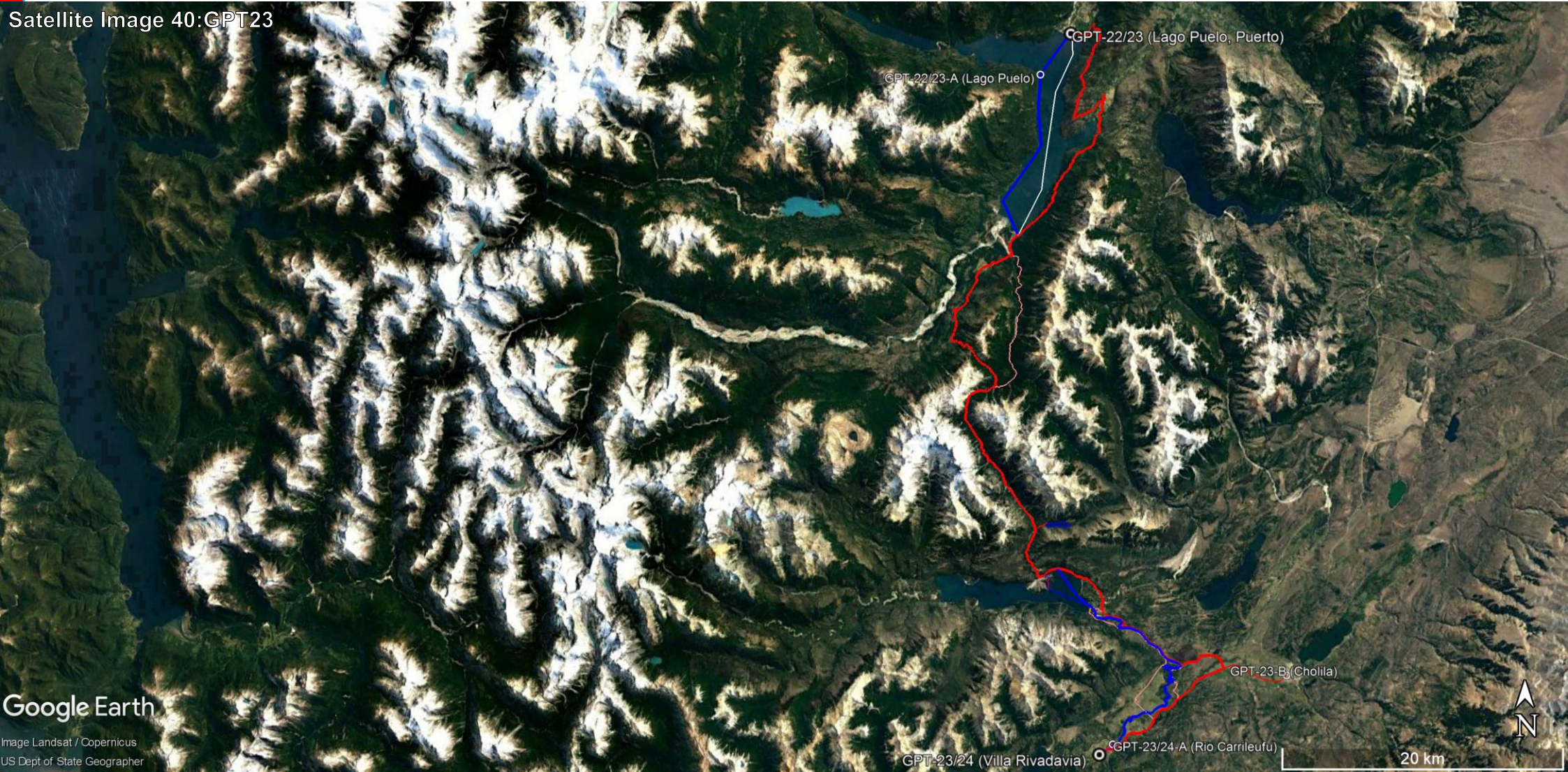
2.4.25 GPT23: PN Lago Puelo

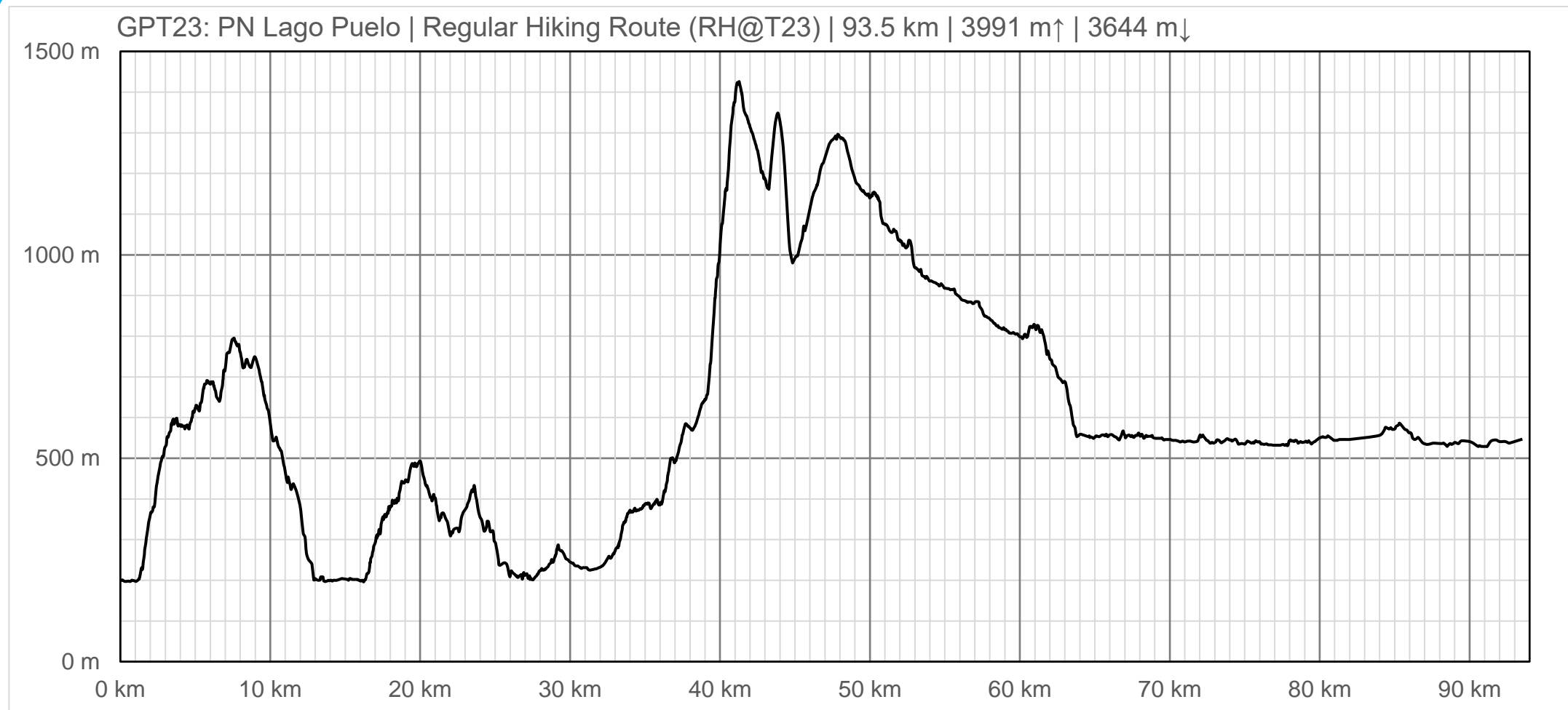
To be issued.

GPT23: PN Lago Puelo		
Traversable	Jan - Mar (Conditionally: Dec, Apr)	
Packraft	Very Useful (40.5 km 40.5 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	3/5	5/5
Difficulty	5/5	5/5
Distance	93.5 km 34 h	80.0 km 28 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	Packrafting: ↓ More packraft use	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	E: Zona Rios y Lagos Argentinos	
Region	Argentina: Chubut	
Start	Lago Puelo, Puerto	
Finish	Villa Lago Rivadavia	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT22	GPT24H, GPT24P	-

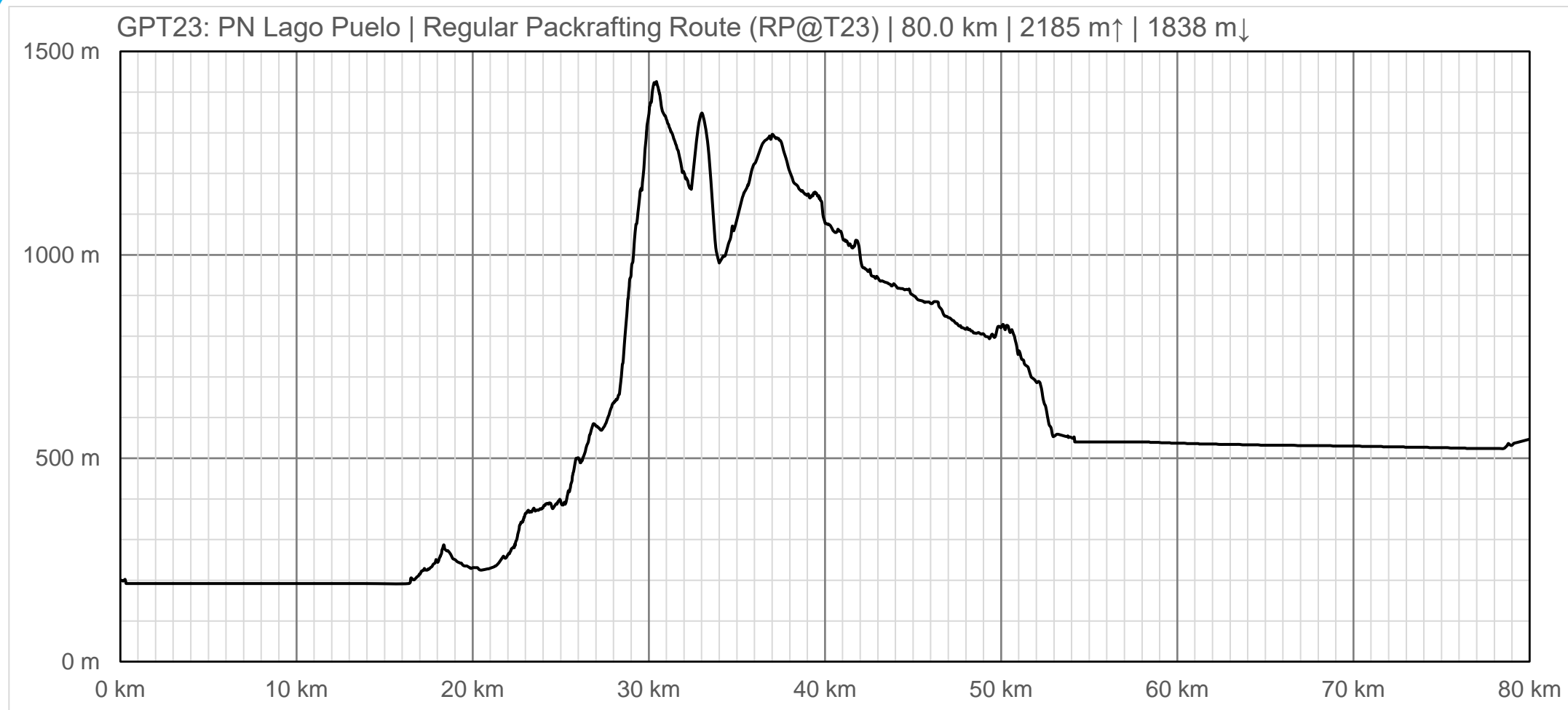
Table 57: GPT23 Section Summary

Satellite Image 40:GPT23





Elevation Profile 40: GPT23 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 41: GPT23 Regular Packrafting Route

2.4.26 GPT24H: PN Los Alerces Tierra

To be issued.

GPT24H: PN Los Alerces Tierra		
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Conditionally: Sep, Oct, May)	
Packraft	Only Burden	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	2/5	No Rating
Difficulty	2/5	No Rating
Distance	68.5 km 25 h	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	E: Zona Rios y Lagos Argentinos	
Region	Argentina: Chubut	
Start	Villa Lago Rivadavia	
Finish	Villa Futalaufquen	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT23	GPT25H, GPT25P	GPT24P

Table 58: GPT24H Section Summary

Satellite Image 41:GPT24H



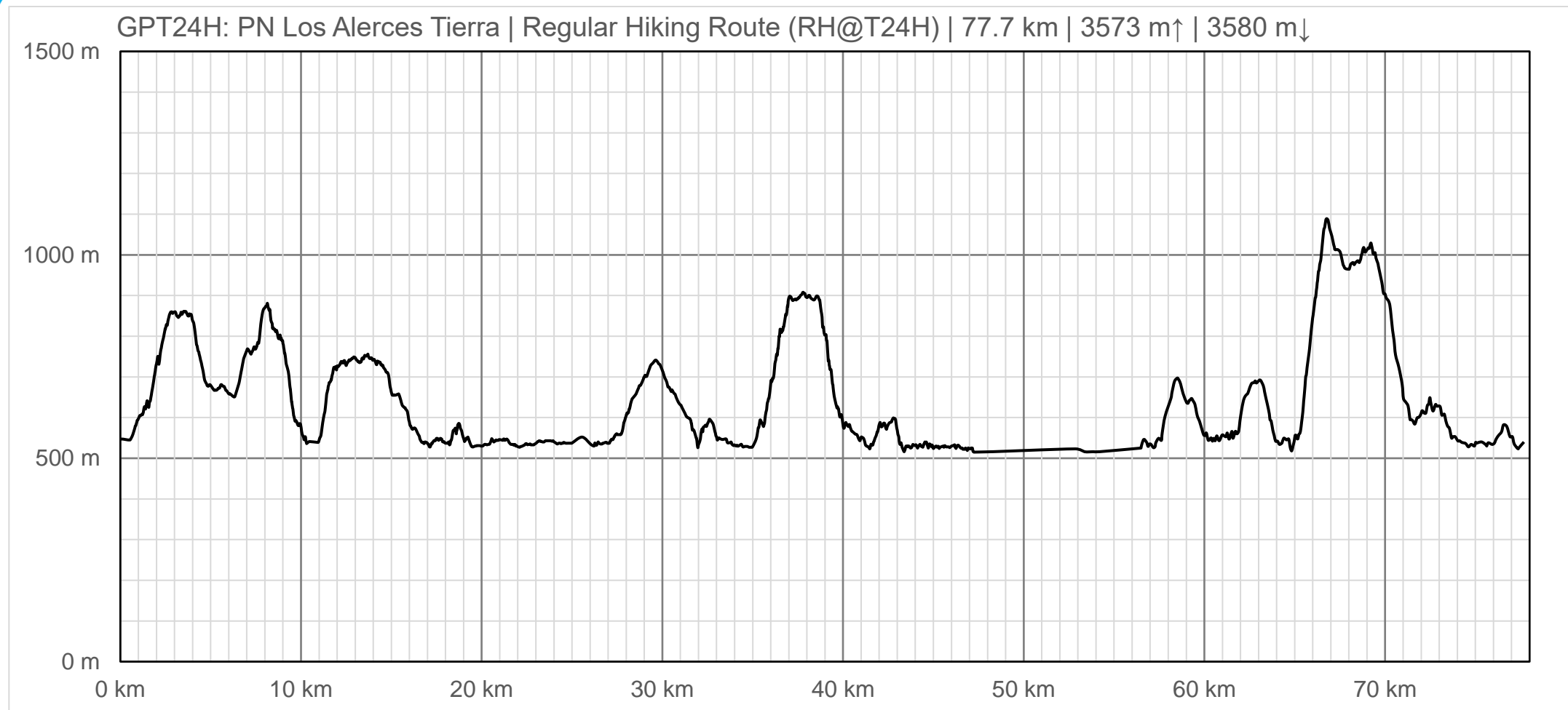
Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus
Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe
US Dept of State Geographer

GPT-24/25P (Lago Kruger)

GPT-24/25H (Villa Futalaufquen)

10 km



Elevation Profile 42: GPT24H Regular Hiking Route

2.4.27 GPT24P: PN Los Alerces Agua

To be issued.

GPT24P: PN Los Alerces Agua		
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Conditionally: Sep, Oct, May)	
Packraft	Very Useful (72.0 km 72.0 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	5/5
Difficulty	No Rating	4/5
Distance	-	73.9 km 20 h
Direction	None	Both ↓↑
Comment	Hiking: Packraft required Packrafting: ↓ More packraft use	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	E: Zona Rios y Lagos Argentinos	
Region	Argentina: Chubut	
Start	Villa Lago Rivadavia	
Finish	Villa Futalaufquen , (Lago Kruger Lodge)	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT23	GPT25H, GPT25P	GPT24H

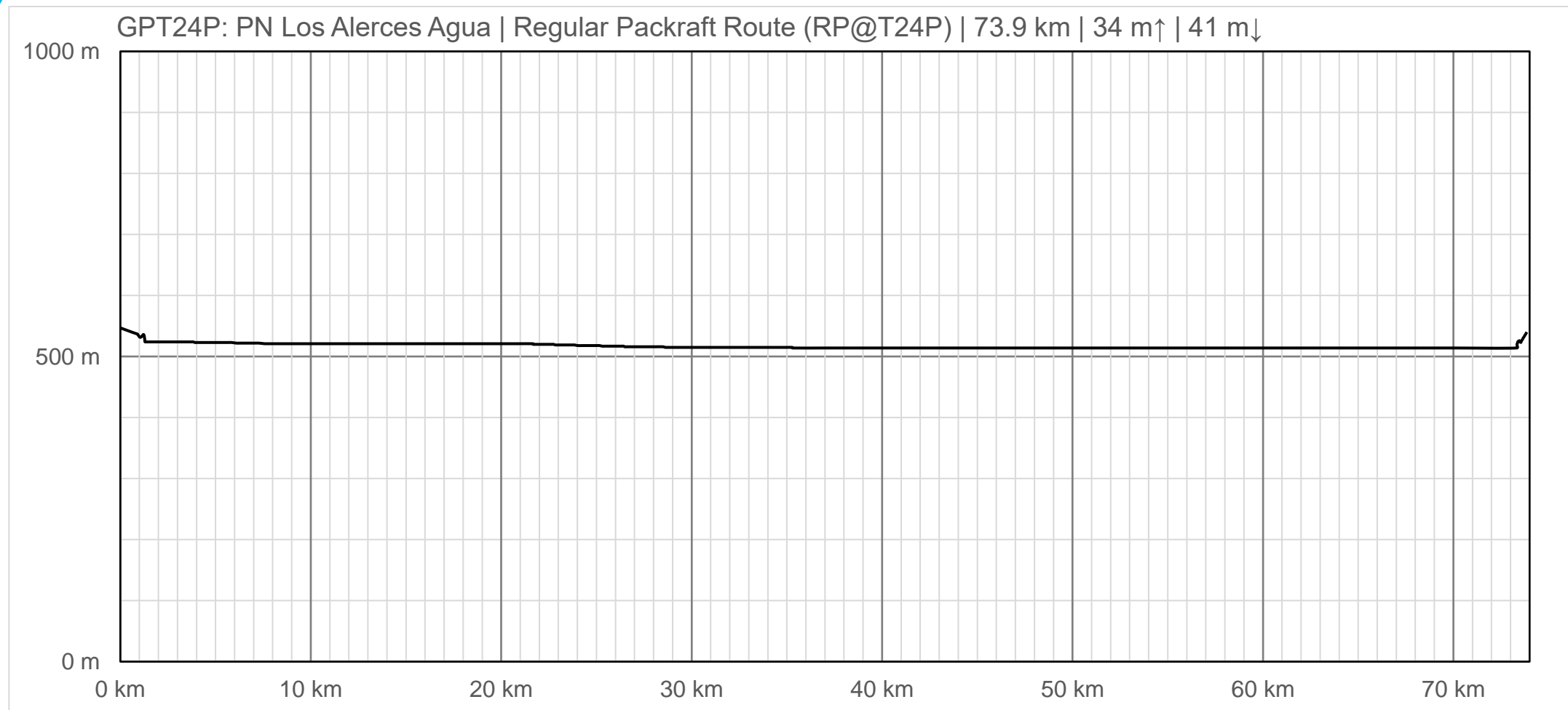
Table 59: GPT24P Section Summary

Satellite Image 42:GPT24P



Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus
Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe
US Dept of State Geographer



Elevation Profile 43: GPT24P Regular Packrafting Route

2.4.28 GPT25H: Aldea Escolar

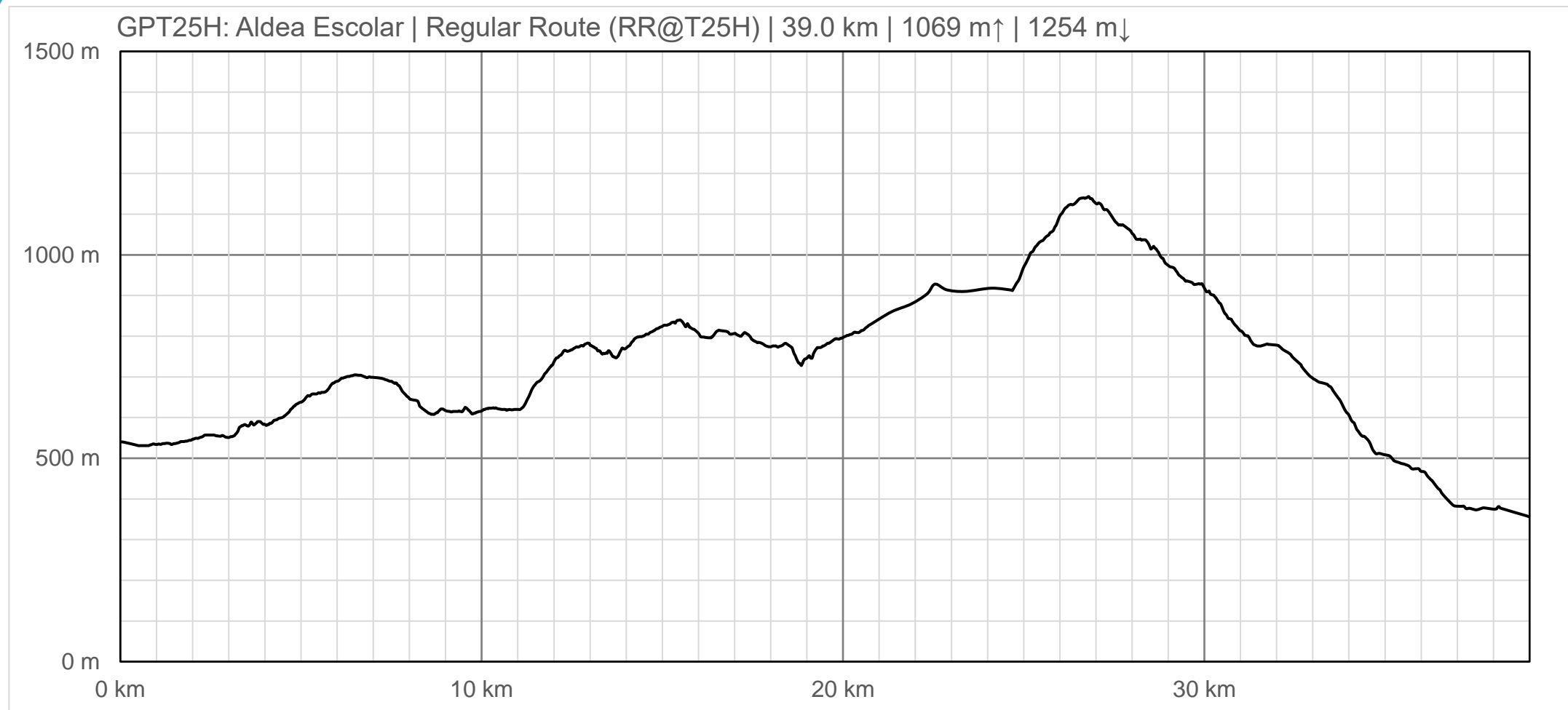
To be issued.

GPT25H: Aldea Escolar		
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Conditionally: Sep, Oct, May)	
Packraft	Only Burden	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	1/5	No Rating
Difficulty	3/5	No Rating
Distance	39.0 km 11 h	39.0 km 11 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	E: Zona Rios y Lagos Argentinos	
Region	Argentina: Chubut	
Start	Villa Futalaufquen	
Finish	Aldea Escolar	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT24H, GPT24P	GPT26	GPT25P

Table 60: GPT25H Section Summary

Satellite Image 43:GPT25H





Elevation Profile 44: GPT25H Regular Route

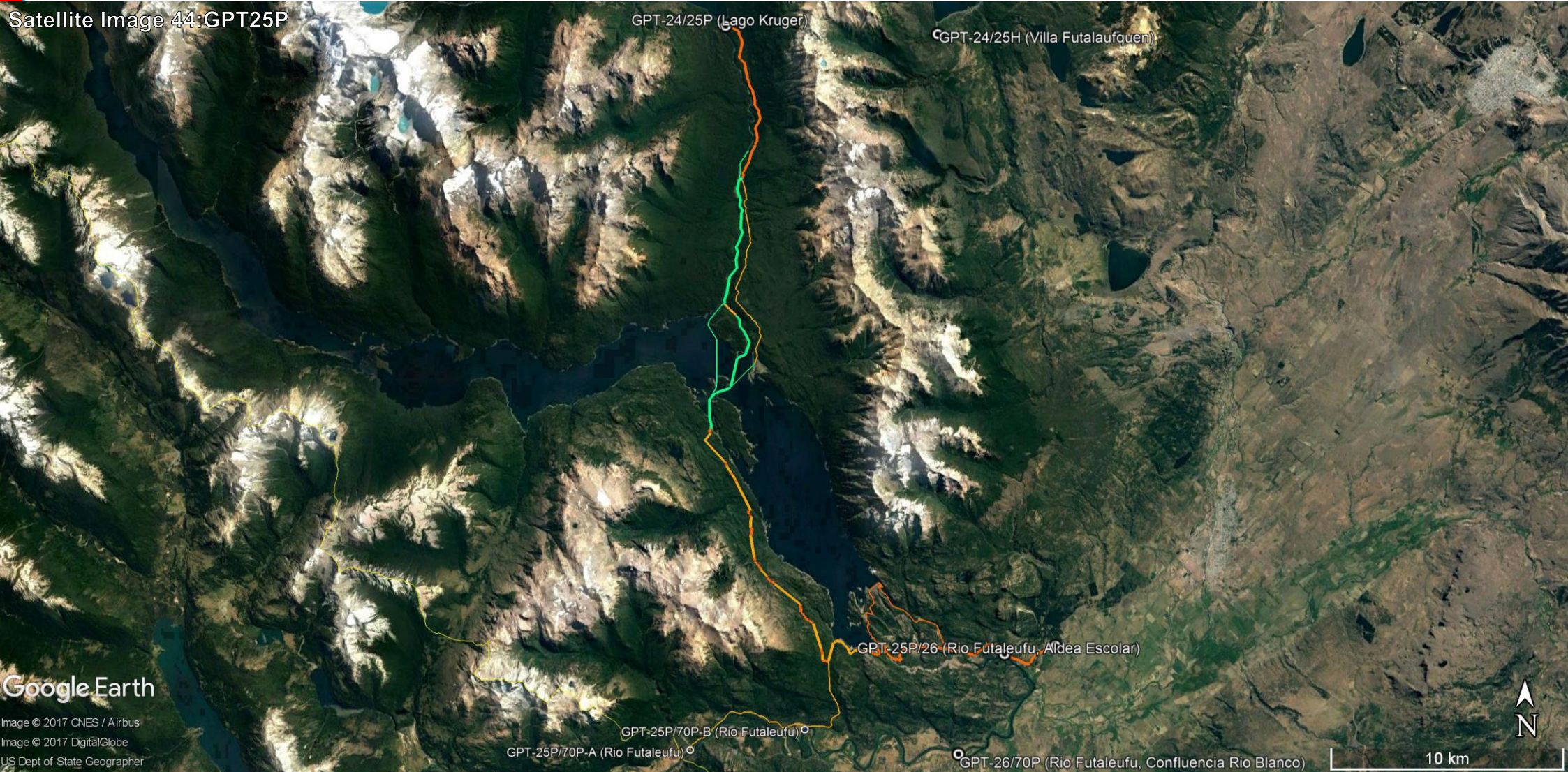
2.4.29 GPT25P: Lago Amutui Quimei

To be issued.

GPT25P: Lago Amutui Quimei		
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Conditionally: Sep, Oct, May)	
Packraft	Required (11.8 km 11.8 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	3/5
Difficulty	No Rating	6/5
Distance	-	47.4 km 14 h
Direction	None	Both ↓↑
Comment	Hiking: Packraft required Packrafting: ↓ Southbound exploration appears preferable	
Status	Published and Verified, To be Recorded by GPS BY EXPERTS ONLY	
Zone	E: Zona Rios y Lagos Argentinos	
Region	Argentina: Chubut	
Start	Lago Kruger Lodge	
Finish	Aldea Escolar , (Río Futalaufú)	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT24H, GPT24P	GPT26, GPT70P	GPT25H

Table 61: GPT25P Section Summary

Satellite Image 44:GPT25P

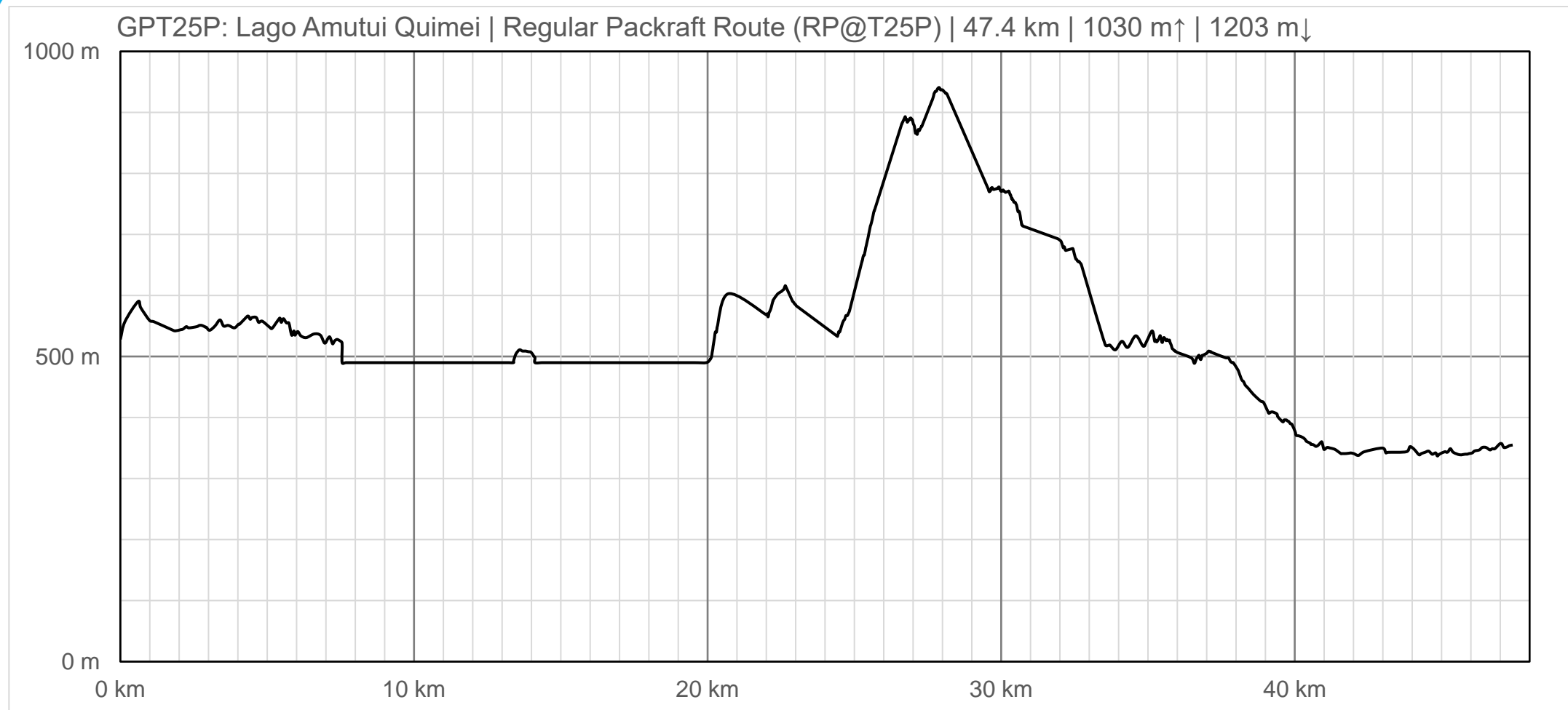


Google Earth

Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus

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US Dept of State Geographer



Elevation Profile 45: GPT25P Regular Packrafting Route

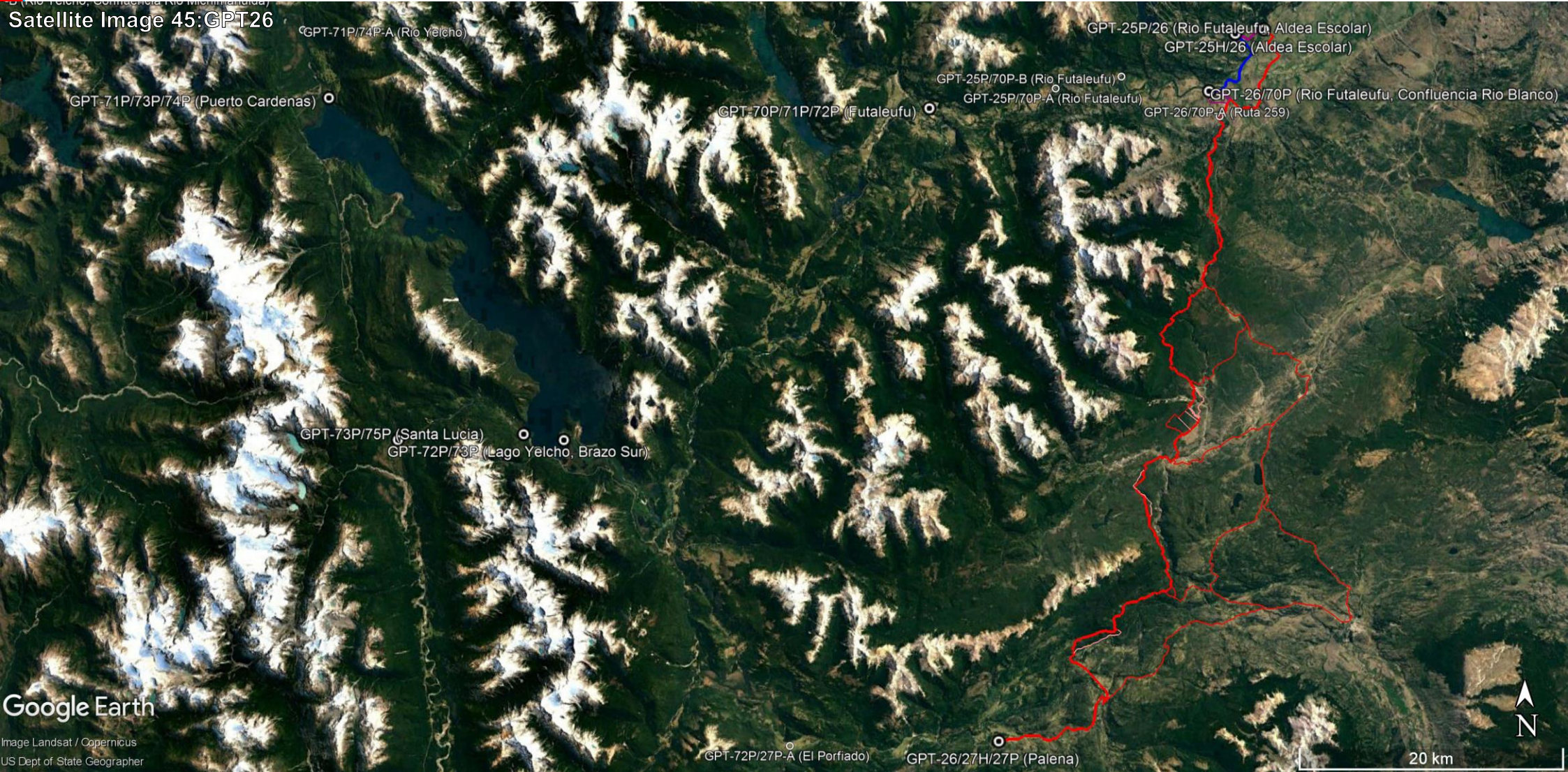
2.4.30 GPT26: Carrenleufú

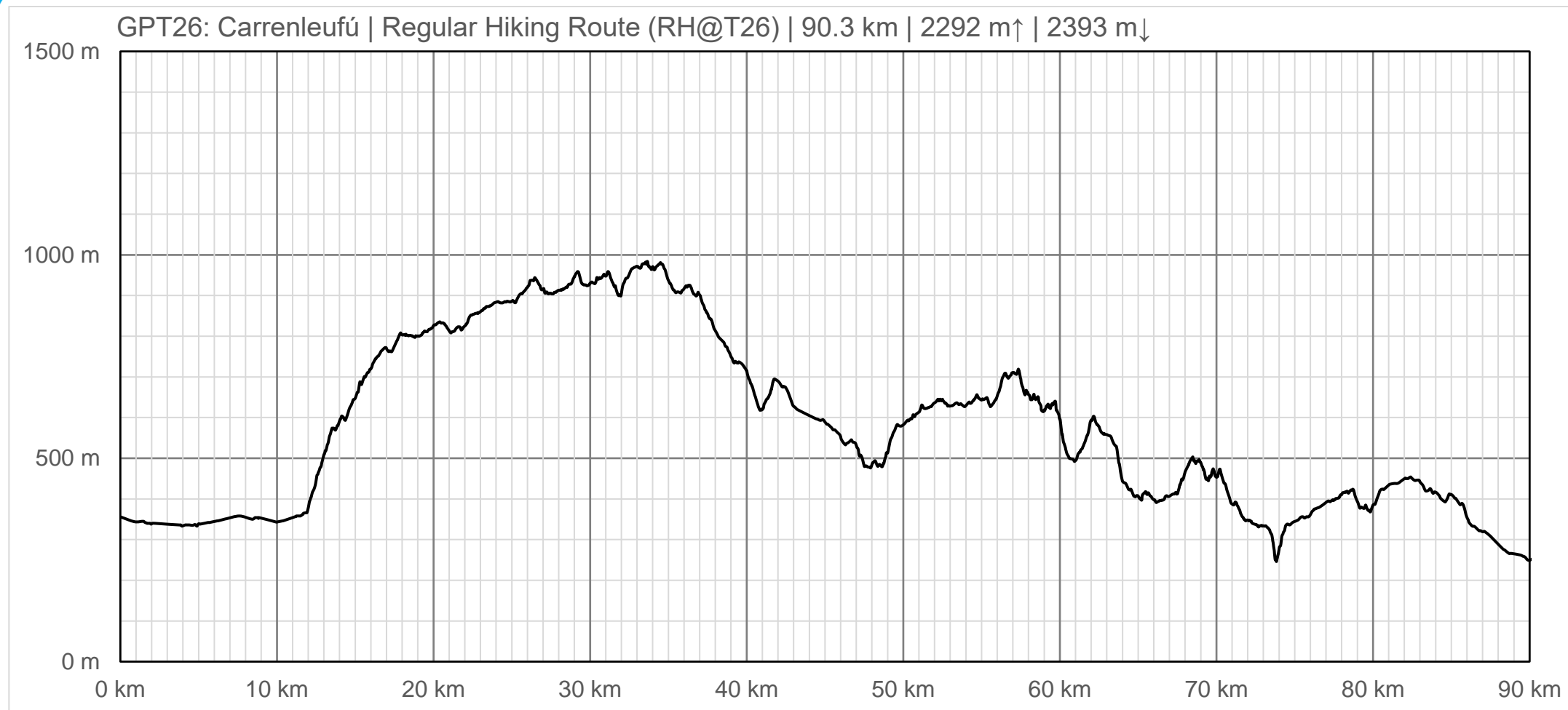
To be issued.

GPT26: Carrenleufú		
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Conditionally: Sep, Oct, May)	
Packraft	Deployable (6.3 km 6.3 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	2/5	No Rating
Difficulty	2/5	No Rating
Distance	90.3 km 25 h	90.5 km 25 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	E: Zona Rios y Lagos Argentinos	
Region	Argentina & Chile: Chubut & Los Lagos (X)	
Start	Aldea Escolar	
Finish	Palena	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT25H, GPT25P	GPT27H, GPT27P, GPT70P	GPT70P

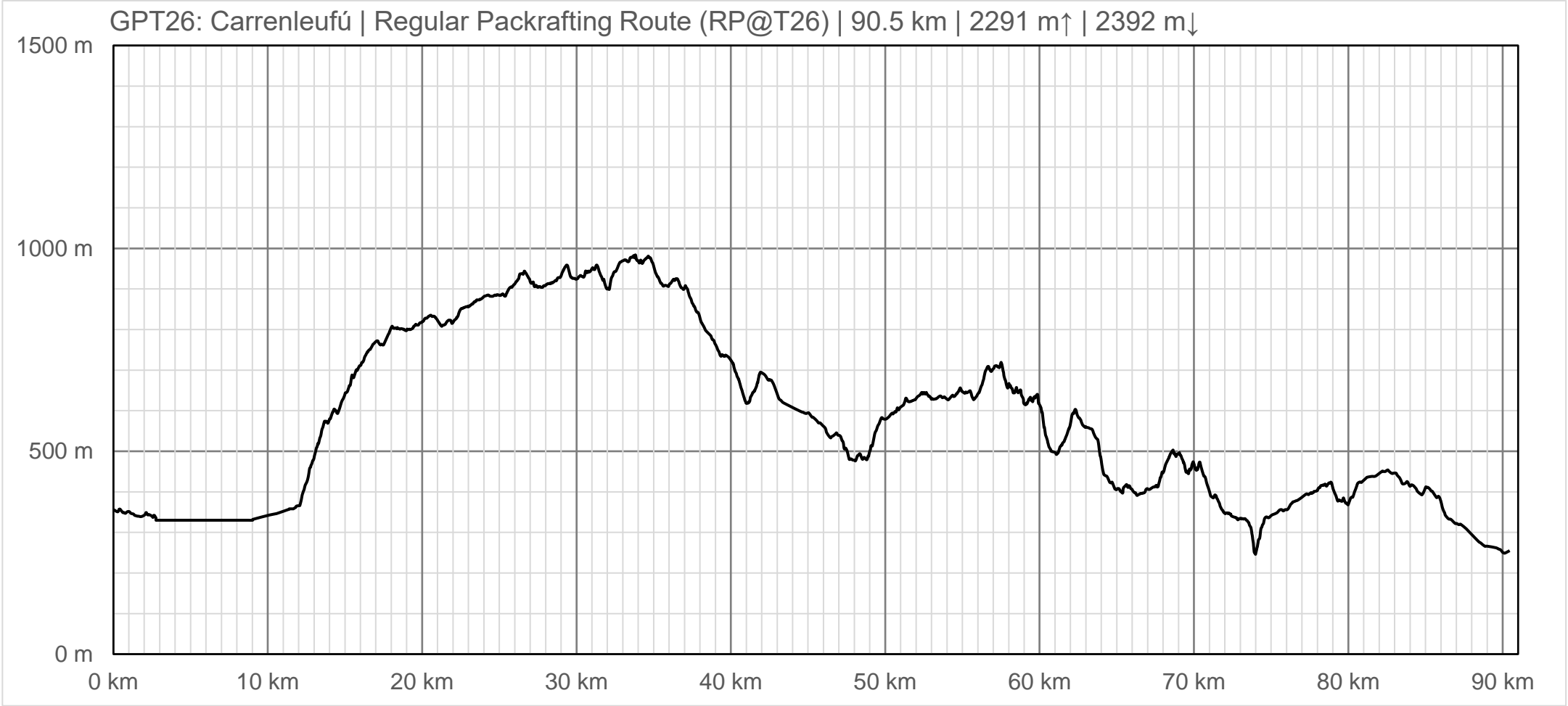
Table 62: GPT26 Section Summary

Satellite Image 45: GPT26





Elevation Profile 46: GPT26 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 47: GPT26 Regular Packrafting Route

2.4.31 GPT27H: Lago Palena

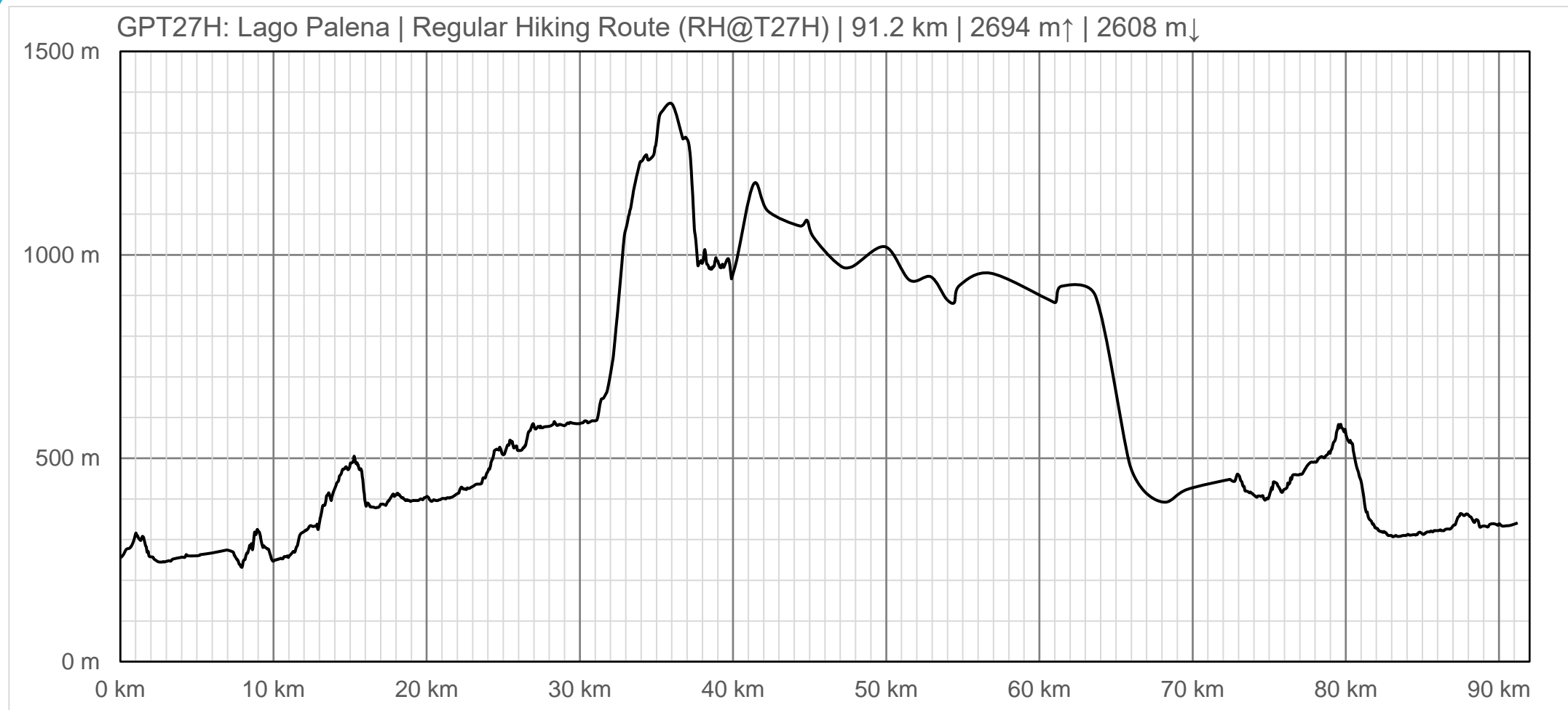
To be issued.

GPT27H: Lago Palena		
Traversable	Jan - Mar (Conditionally: Nov, Dec, Apr)	
Packraft	Useful	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	3/5	3/5
Difficulty	5/5	5/5
Distance	91.2 km 27 h	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified, To be Recorded by GPS	
Zone	F: Zona Palena	
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X) & Aysén (XI)	
Start	Palena	
Finish	Lago Verde	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT26	GPT28H	GPT27P

Table 63: GPT27H Section Summary

Satellite Image 46:GPT27H





Elevation Profile 48: GPT27H Regular Hiking Route

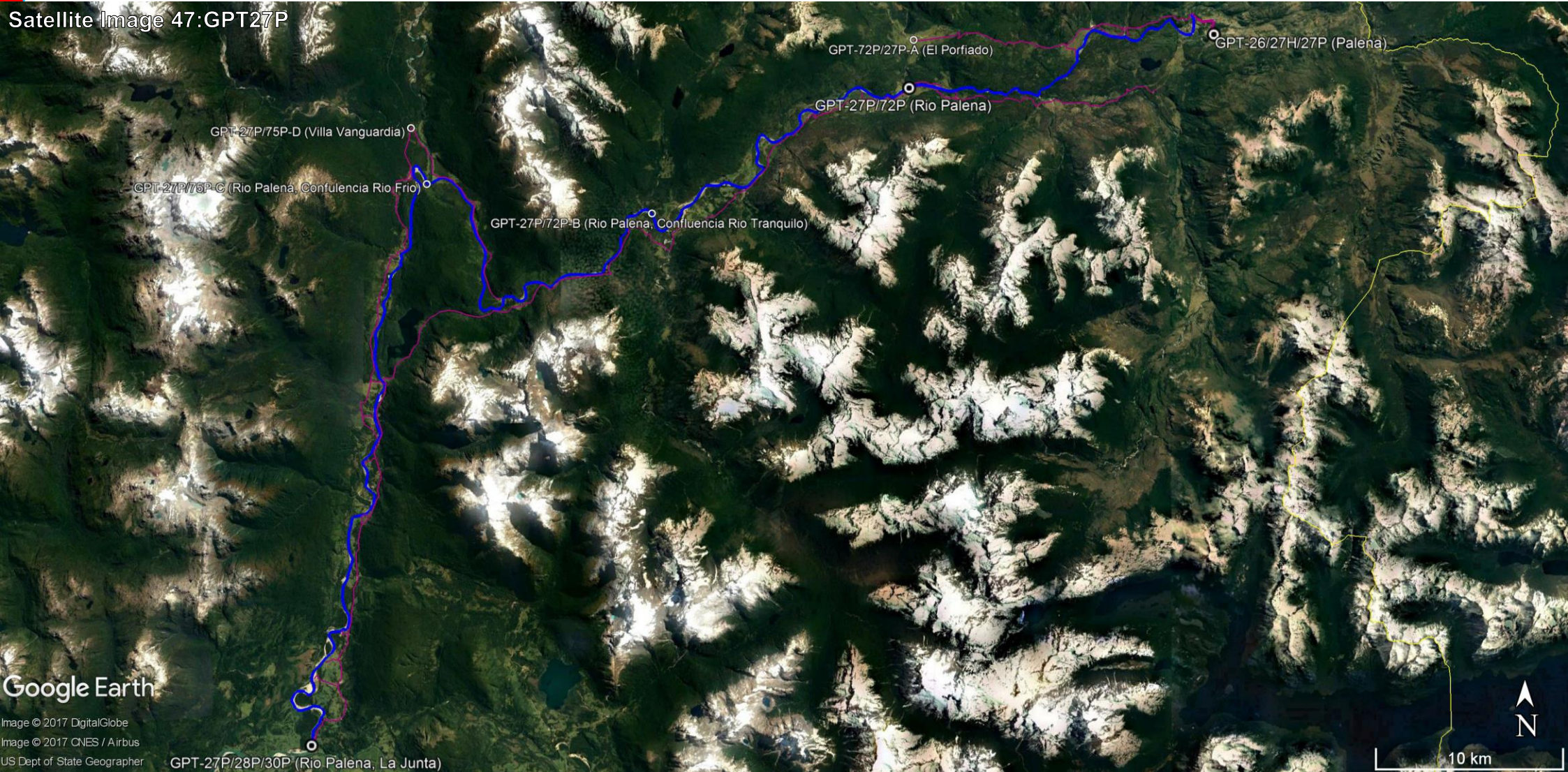
2.4.32 GPT27P: Alto Río Palena

To be issued.

GPT27P: Alto Río Palena		
Traversable	Nov - May (Conditionally: Sep, Oct)	
Packraft	Required (101.3 km 101.3 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	5/5
Difficulty	No Rating	4/5
Distance	-	103.5 km 21 h
Direction	None	Only ↓
Comment	Hiking: Packraft required	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	F: Zona Palena	
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X) & Aysén (XI)	
Start	Palena , (Río Palena, Confluencia Rio Tranquilo)	
Finish	Río Palena, La Junta	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT26, GPT72P	GPT28P, GPT30P	GPT27H

Table 64: GPT27P Section Summary

Satellite Image 47:GPT27P

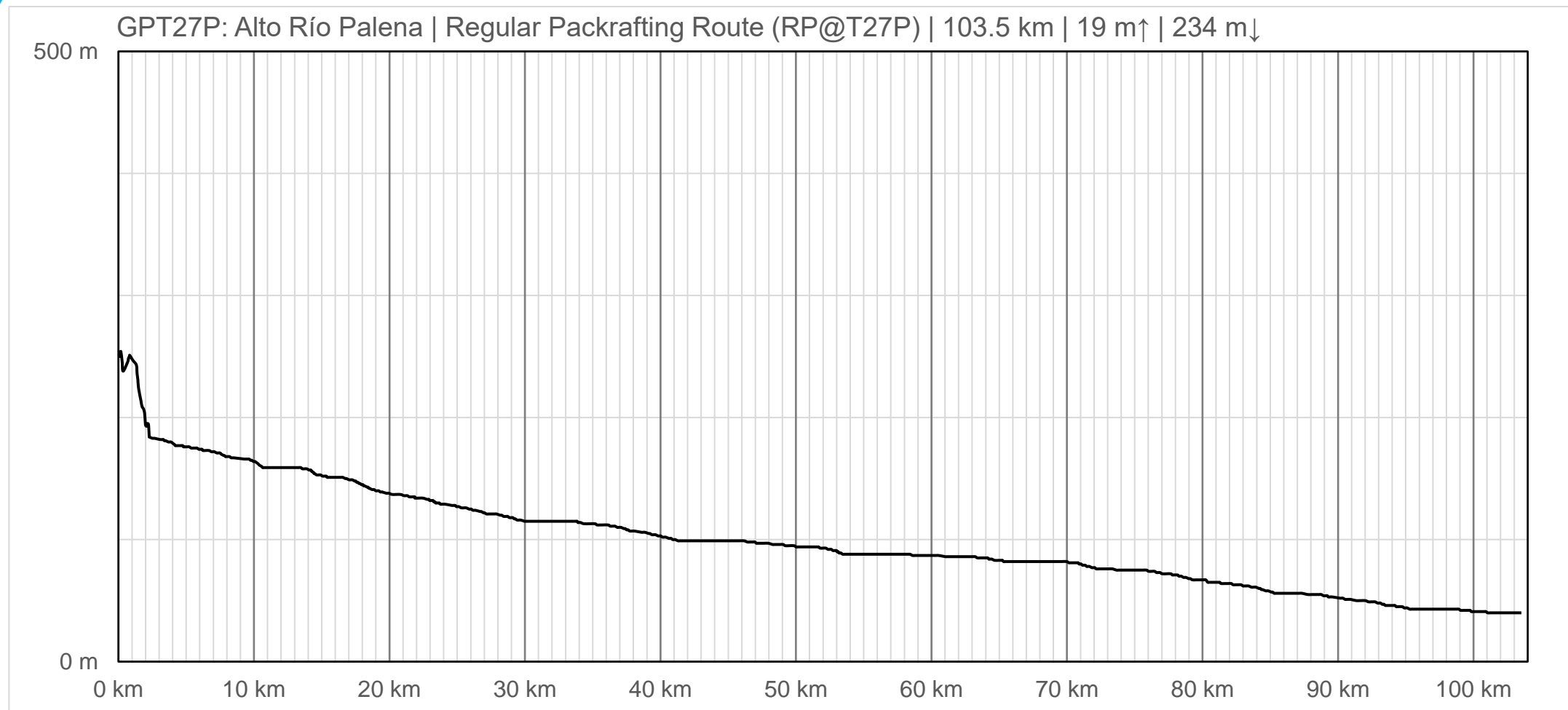


Google Earth

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Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus
US Dept of State Geographer



10 km



Elevation Profile 49: GPT27P Regular Packrafting Route

2.4.33 GPT28H: La Tapera

To be issued.

GPT28H: La Tapera		
Traversable	Sep - May	
Packraft	Only Burden	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	1/5	No Rating
Difficulty	2/5	No Rating
Distance	77.4 km 22 h	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	G: Zona Aysen Sector Norte	
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)	
Start	Lago Verde	
Finish	La Tapera	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT27H	GPT30H	-

Table 65: GPT28H Section Summary

Satellite Image 48:GPT28H



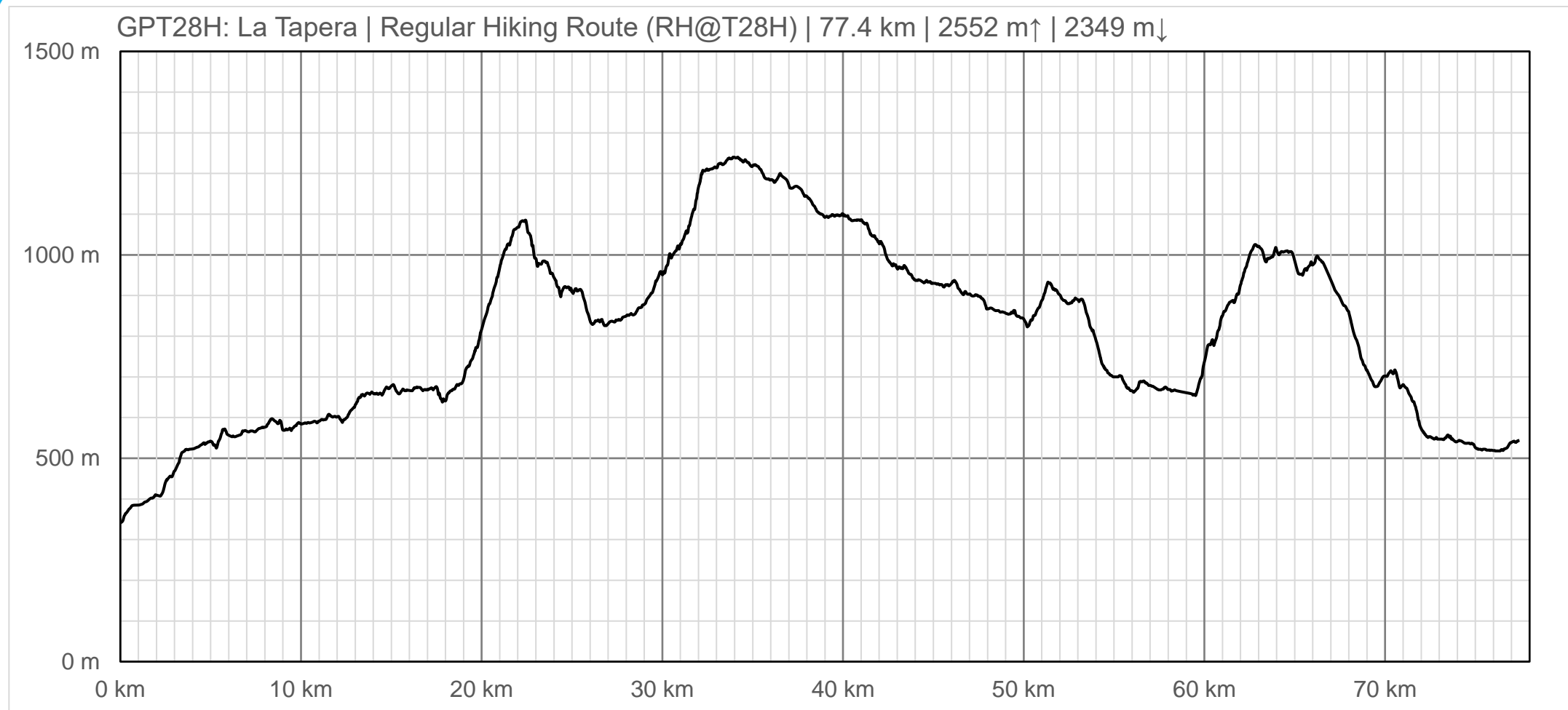
Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus
Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe
US Dept of State Geographer

GPT-28H/29H (La Tapera)

20 km





Elevation Profile 50: GPT28H Regular Hiking Route

2.4.34 GPT28P: Bajo Río Palena

To be issued.

GPT28P: Bajo Río Palena		
Traversable	Nov - May (Conditionally: Sep, Oct)	
Packraft	Required (77.5 km 77.5 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	5/5
Difficulty	No Rating	3/5
Distance	-	83.0 km 18 h
Direction	None	Only ↓
Comment	Hiking: Packraft required	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	F: Zona Palena	
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)	
Start	Río Palena, La Junta	
Finish	Puerto Chacabuco , (Puerto Cisnes)	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT27P, GPT30P	GPT31P, GPT29P, GPT30P	-

Table 66: GPT28P Section Summary

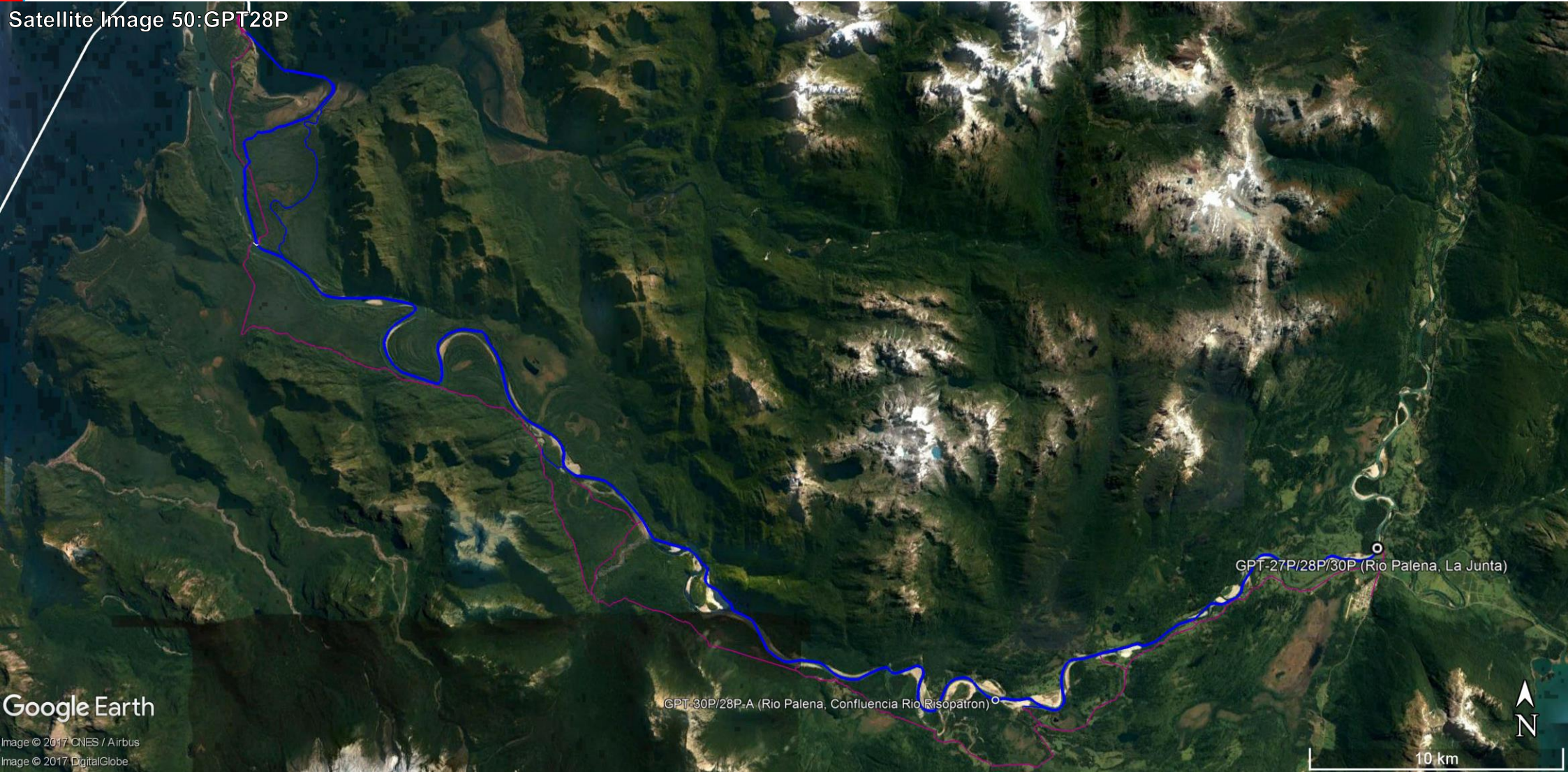
Satellite Image 49: GPT28P Overview



Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus
US Dept of State, Geographer
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Satellite Image 50:GPT28P



Google Earth

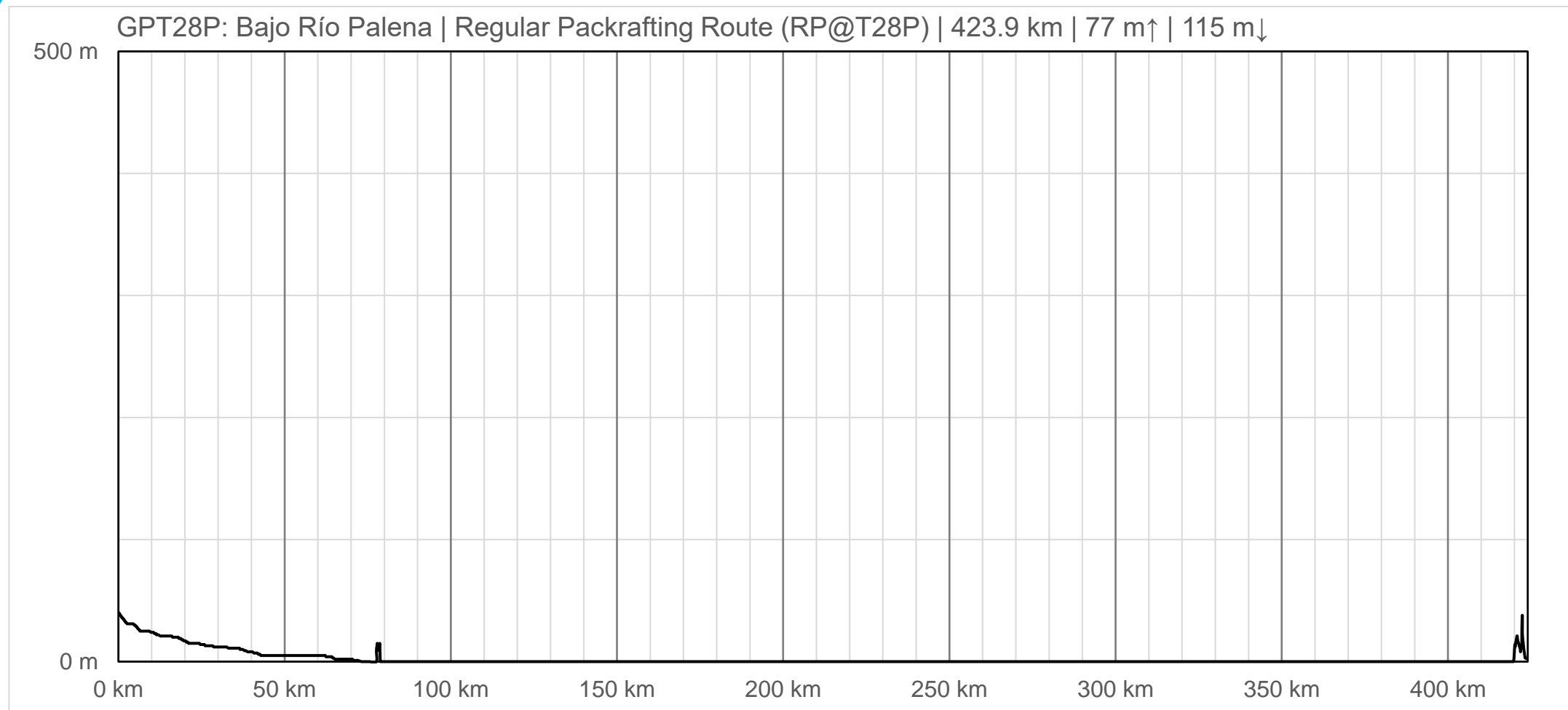
Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe

GPT-30P/28P.A (Rio Palena, Confluencia Rio Risopatron)

GPT-27P/28P/30P (Rio Palena, La Junta)



10 km



Elevation Profile 51: GPT28P Regular Packrafting Route

2.4.35 GPT29H: Rio Cisnes

To be issued.

GPT29H: Rio Cisnes		
Traversable	Sep - May	
Packraft	Only Burden	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	1/5	No Rating
Difficulty	1/5	No Rating
Distance	80.4 km 19 h	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	G: Zona Aysen Sector Norte	
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)	
Start	La Tapera	
Finish	Carretera Austral, Cruze Rio Picacho	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT28H	GPT30H	-

Table 67: GPT29H Section Summary

Satellite Image 51:GPT29H



Google Earth

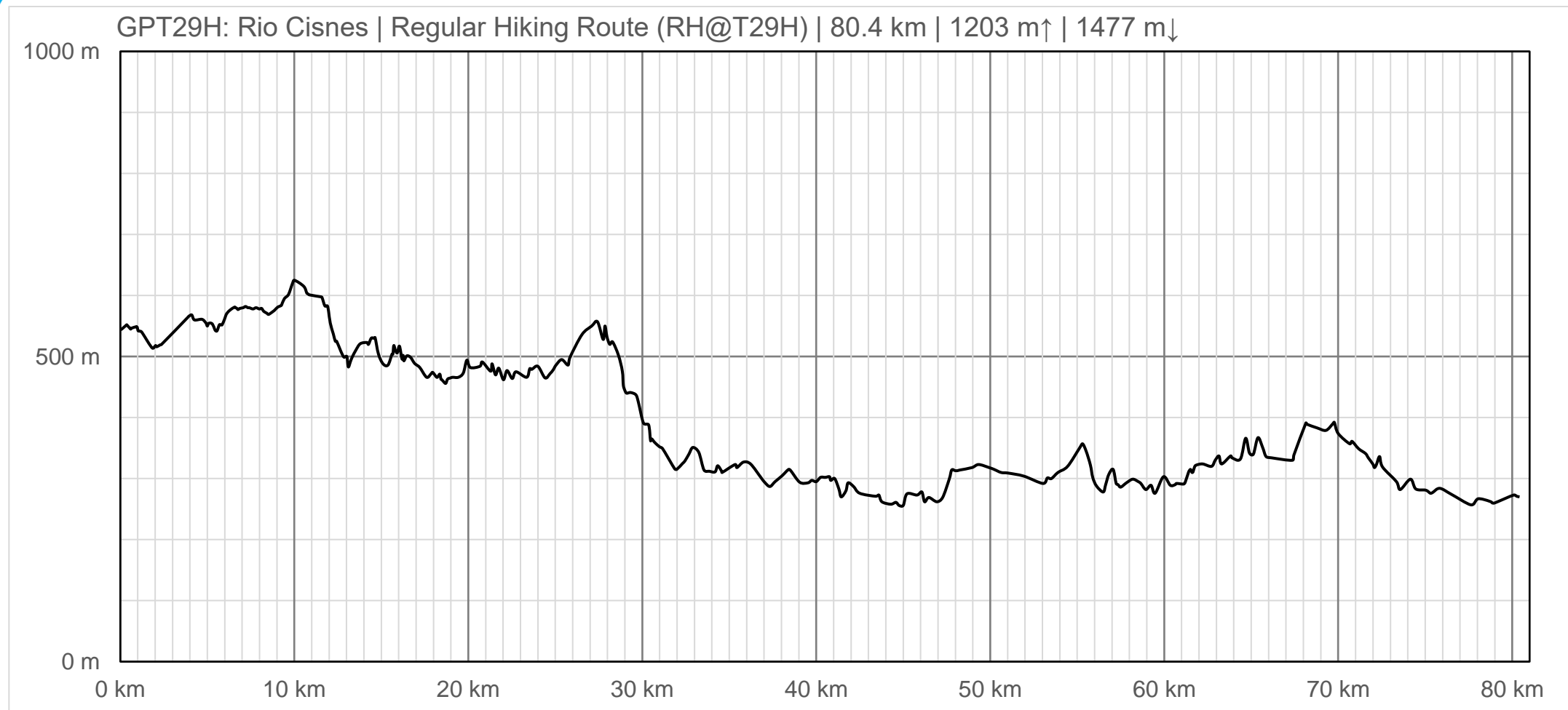
Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus
US Dept of State Geographer
Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe

GPT-29H/29P/30H (Carretera Austral, Cruce Rio Picacho)

GPT-28H/29H (La Tapera)



10 km



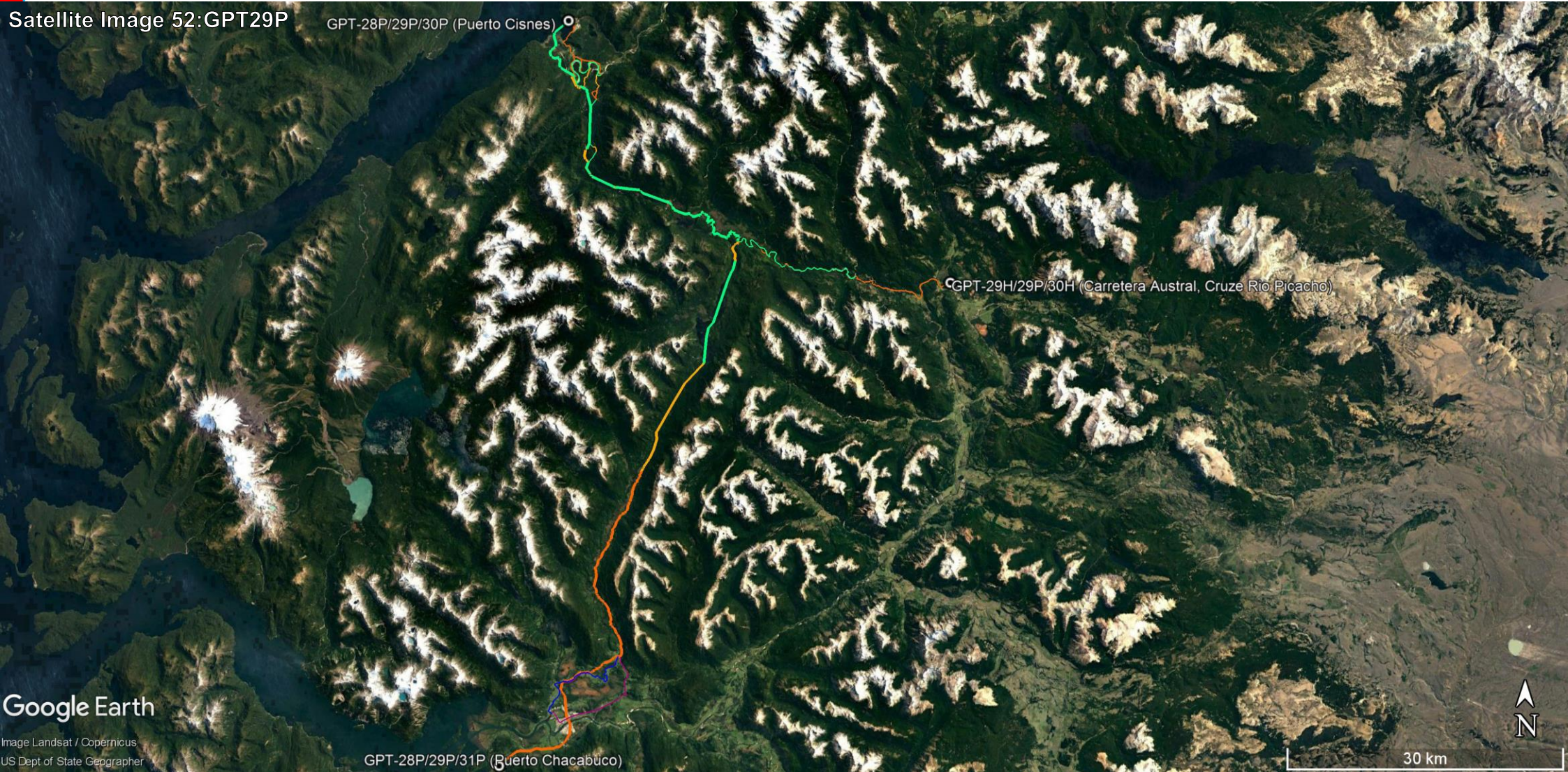
Elevation Profile 52: GPT29H Regular Hiking Route

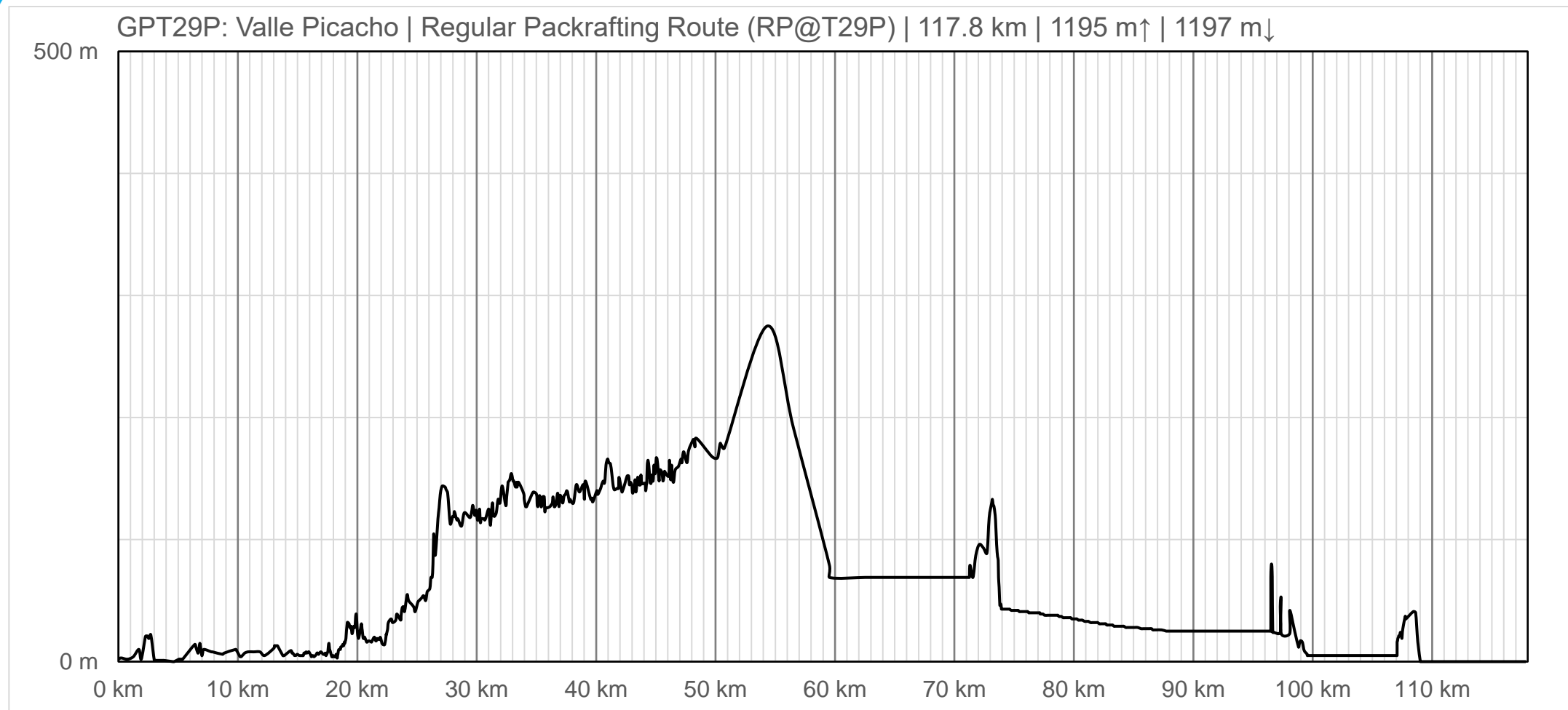
2.4.36 GPT29P: Valle Picacho

To be issued.

GPT29P: Valle Picacho		
Traversable	Sep - May	
Packraft	Required (51.8 km 51.8 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	4/5
Difficulty	No Rating	6/5
Distance	-	117.8 km 33 h
Direction	None	Only ↑ and ←
Comment	Hiking: Packraft required	
Status	Published, To be Verified BY EXPERTS ONLY	
Zone	G: Zona Aysen Sector Norte	
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)	
Start	Puerto Chacabuco , (or Carretera Austral, Cruze Rio Picacho)	
Finish	Puerto Cisnes	
Previous Section		Next Section
GPT28P, GPT31P, GPT29H, GPT30H		GPT30P
		Alternative Section
		Skip

Table 68: GPT29P Section Summary





Elevation Profile 53: GPT29P Regular Packrafting Route

2.4.37 GPT30H: Coyhaique

To be issued.

GPT30H: Coyhaique		
Traversable	Sep - May	
Packraft	Only Burden	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	1/5	No Rating
Difficulty	1/5	No Rating
Distance	131.8 km 33 h	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	G: Zona Aysen Sector Norte	
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)	
Start	Carretera Austral, Cruze Rio Picacho	
Finish	Coyhaique	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT29H	GPT31H	-

Table 69: GPT30H Section Summary

Satellite Image 53:GPT30H



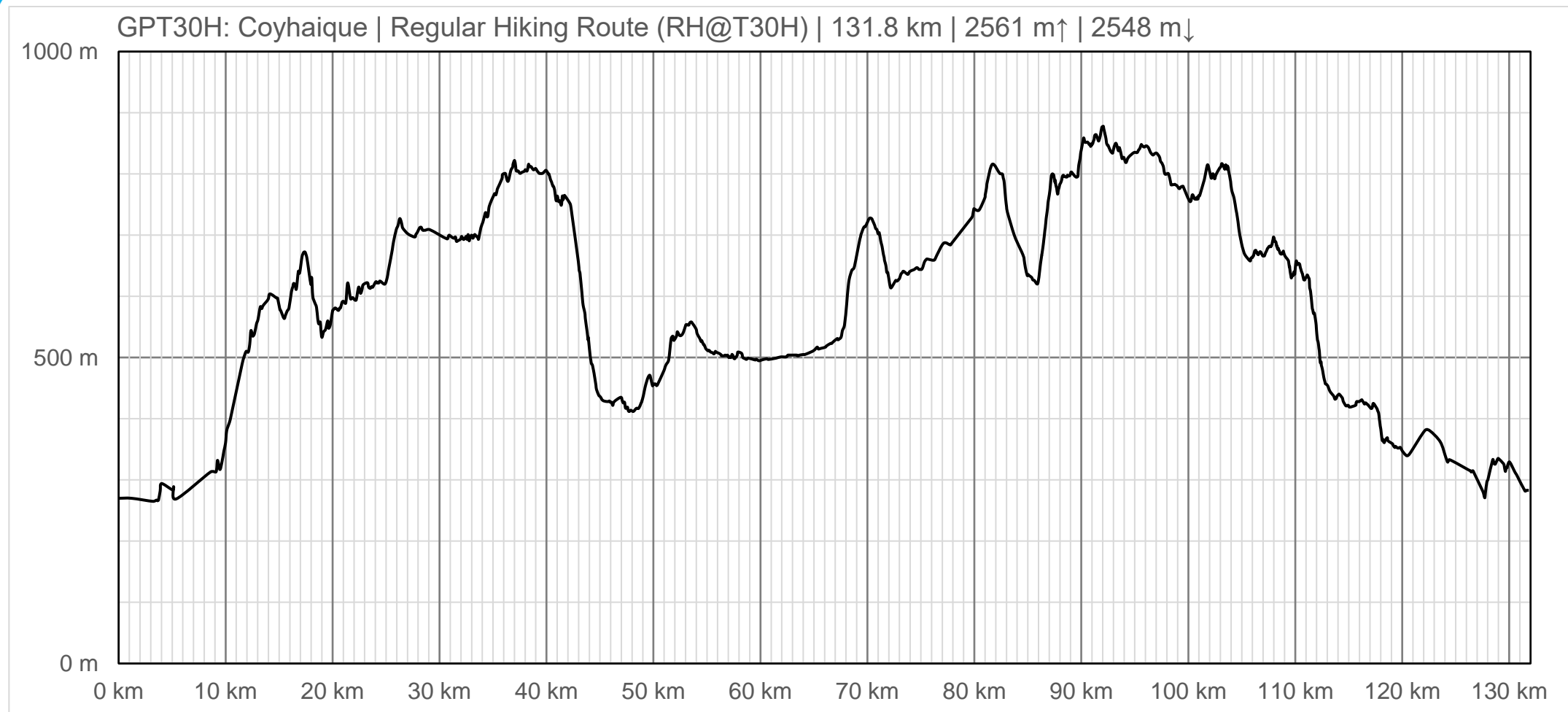
Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus

US Dept of State Geograph...



30 km



Elevation Profile 54: GPT30H Regular Hiking Route

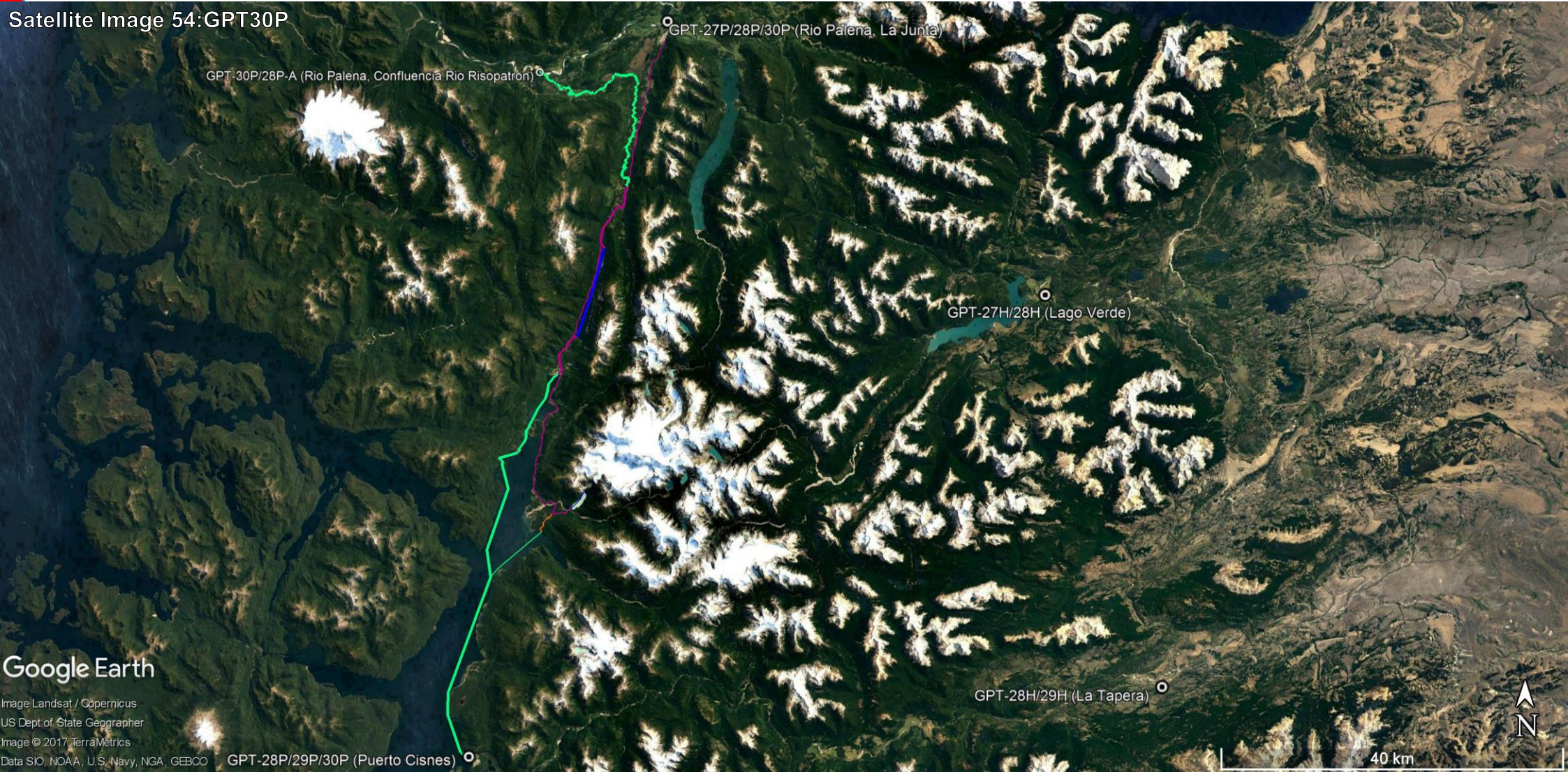
2.4.38 GPT30P: Canal Puyuhuapi

To be issued.

GPT30P: Canal Puyuhuapi		
Traversable	Sep - May	
Packraft	Required (153.6 km 153.6 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	4/5
Difficulty	No Rating	6/5
Distance	-	174.1 km 42 h
Direction	None	Both ↓↑
Comment	Hiking: Packraft required Packrafting: ↑ Northbound exploration appears preferable due to predominant wind direction and more packraft use	
Status	Published, To be Verified BY EXPERTS ONLY	
Zone	F: Zona Palena	
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)	
Start	Puerto Cisnes	
Finish	Río Palena, La Junta, (Río Palena, Confluencia Río Risopatron)	
Previous Section		Next Section
GPT29P, GPT28P, GPT27P		GPT28P
		Alternative Section
		Skip

Table 70: GPT30P Section Summary

Satellite Image 54:GPT30P

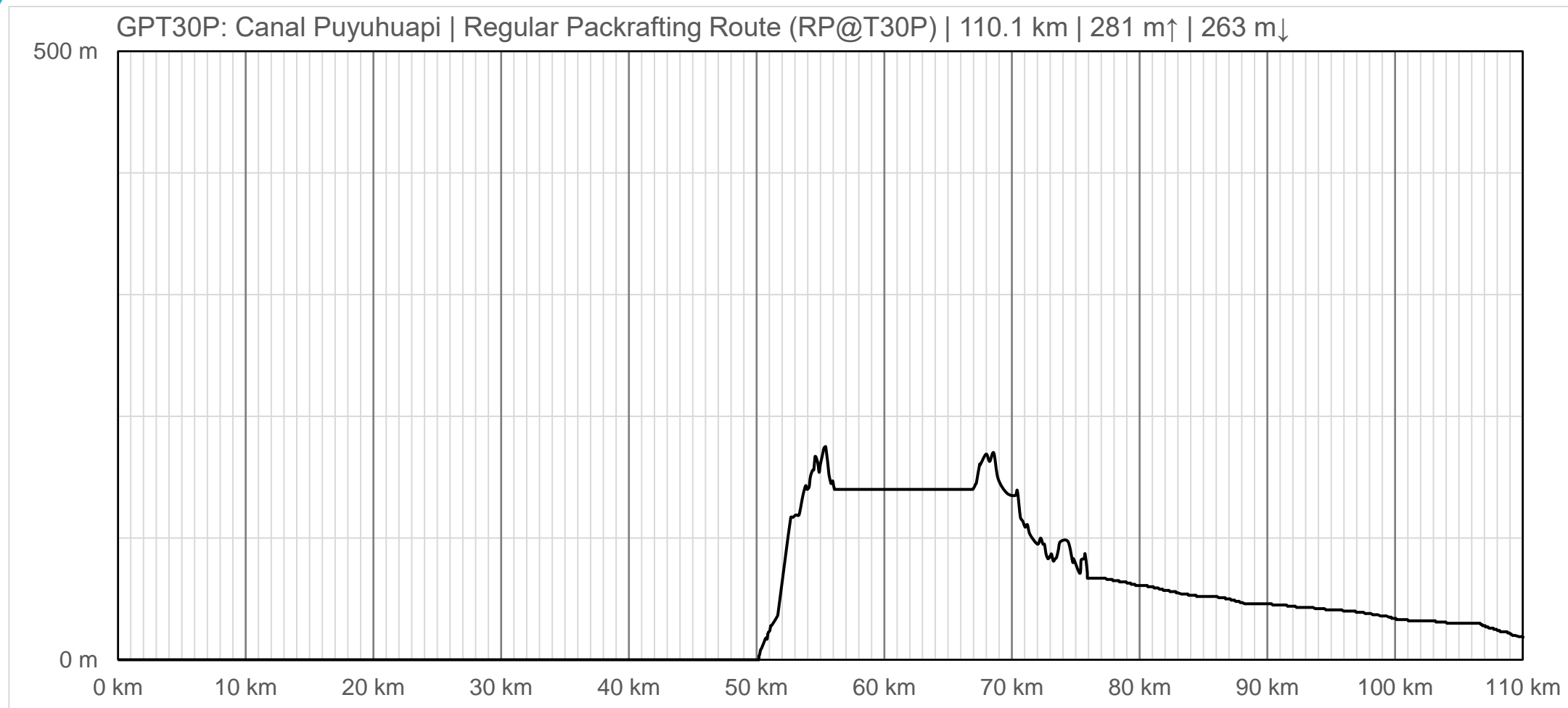


Google Earth

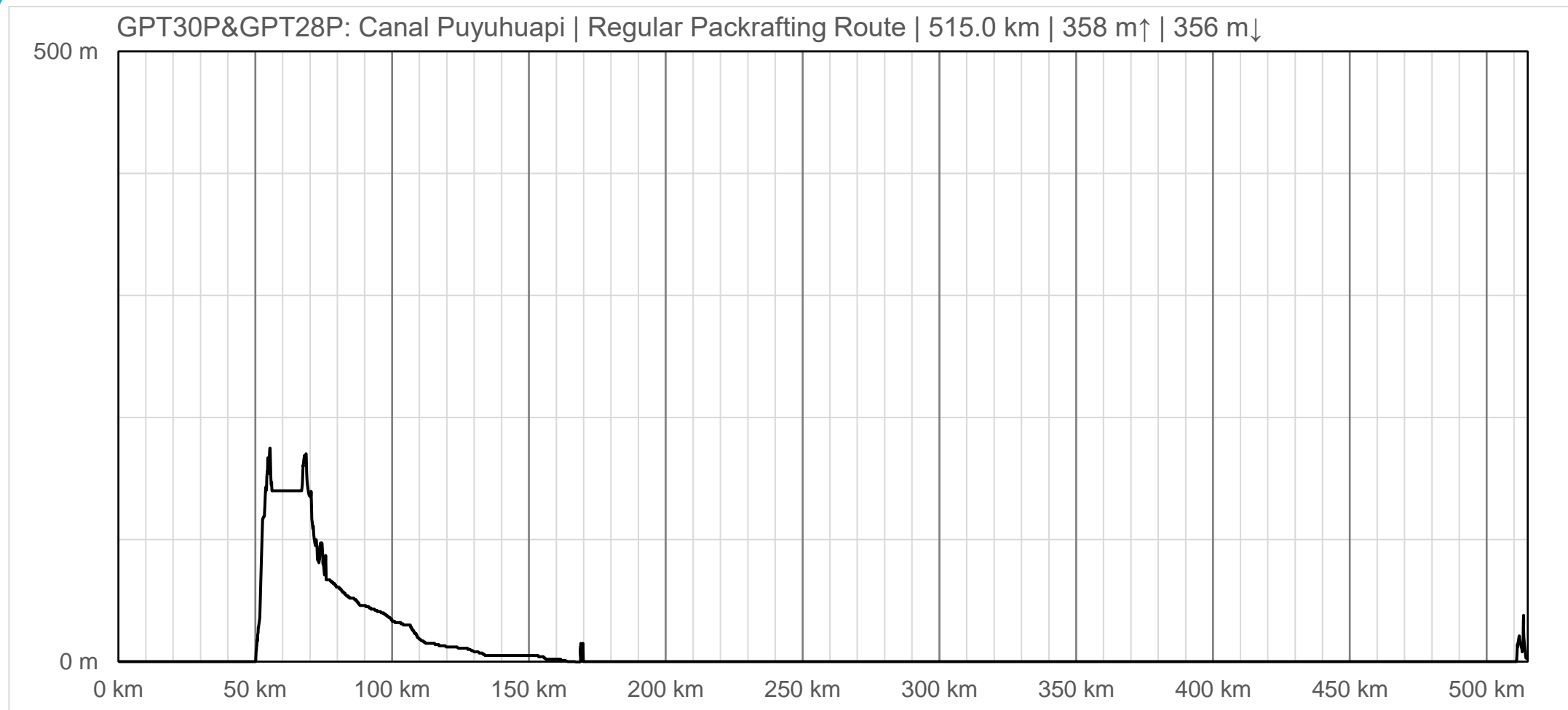
Image Landsat / Copernicus
US Dept of State Geographer
Image © 2017 TerraMetrics
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO



40 km



Elevation Profile 55: GPT30P Regular Packrafting Route



Elevation Profile 56: GPT30P & GPT28P Regular Packrafting Route

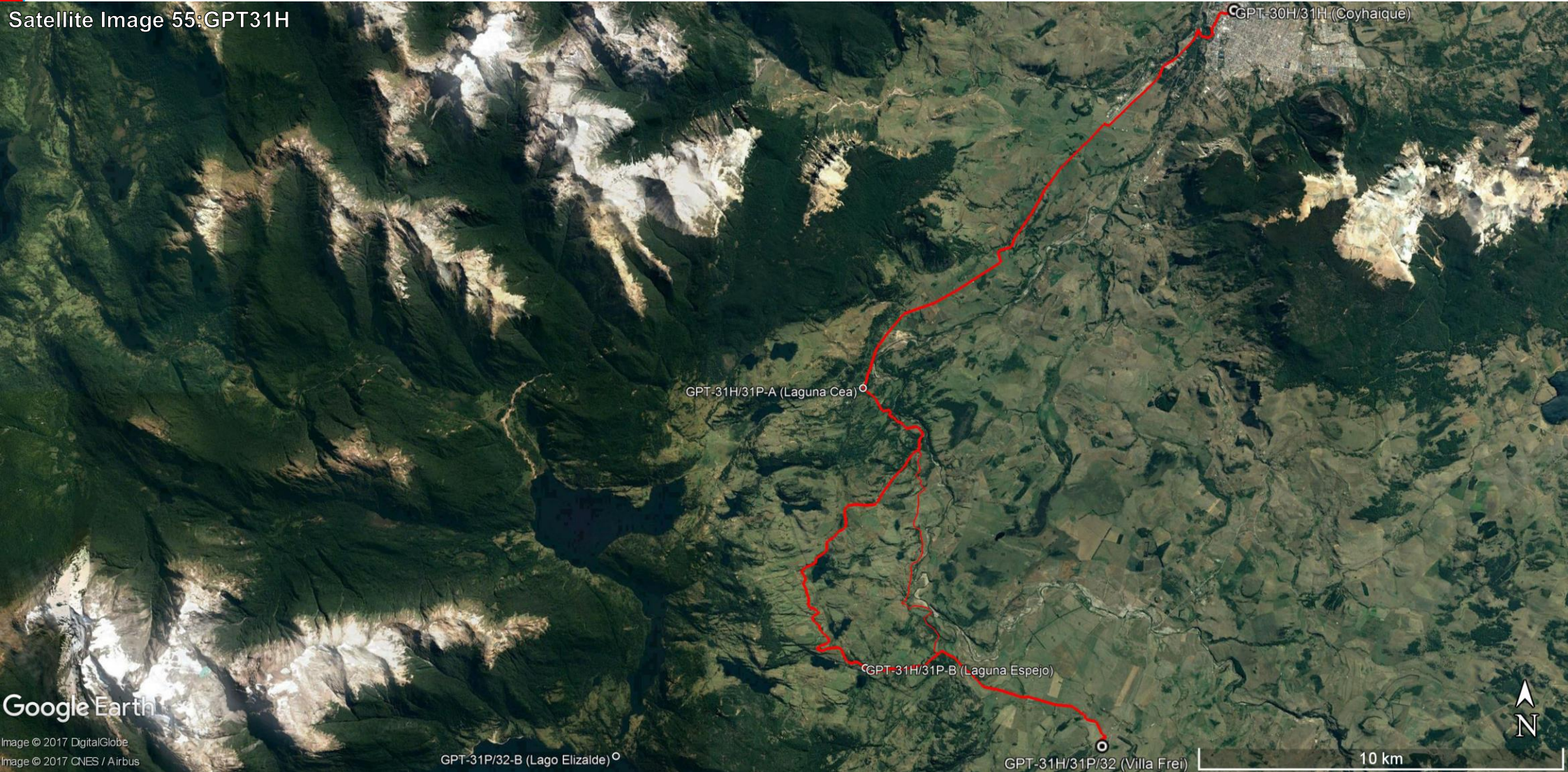
2.4.39 GPT31H: Valle Simpson

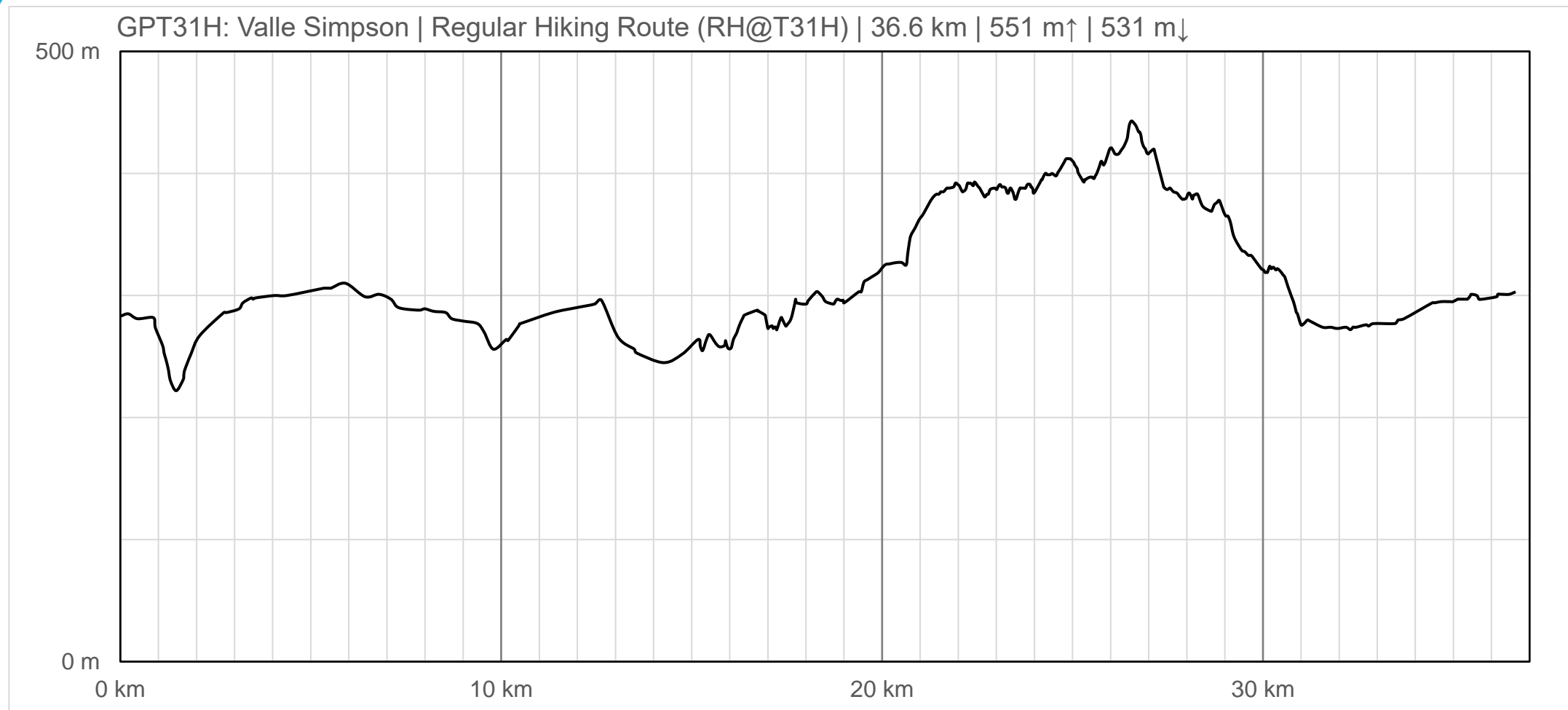
To be issued.

GPT31H: Valle Simpson		
Traversable	Sep - May	
Packraft	Only Burden	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	1/5	No Rating
Difficulty	1/5	No Rating
Distance	36.6 km 9 h	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	G: Zona Aysen Sector Norte	
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)	
Start	Coyhaique	
Finish	Villa Frei	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT30H	GPT32	-

Table 71: GPT31H Section Summary

Satellite Image 55: GPT31H





Elevation Profile 57: GPT31H Regular Hiking Route

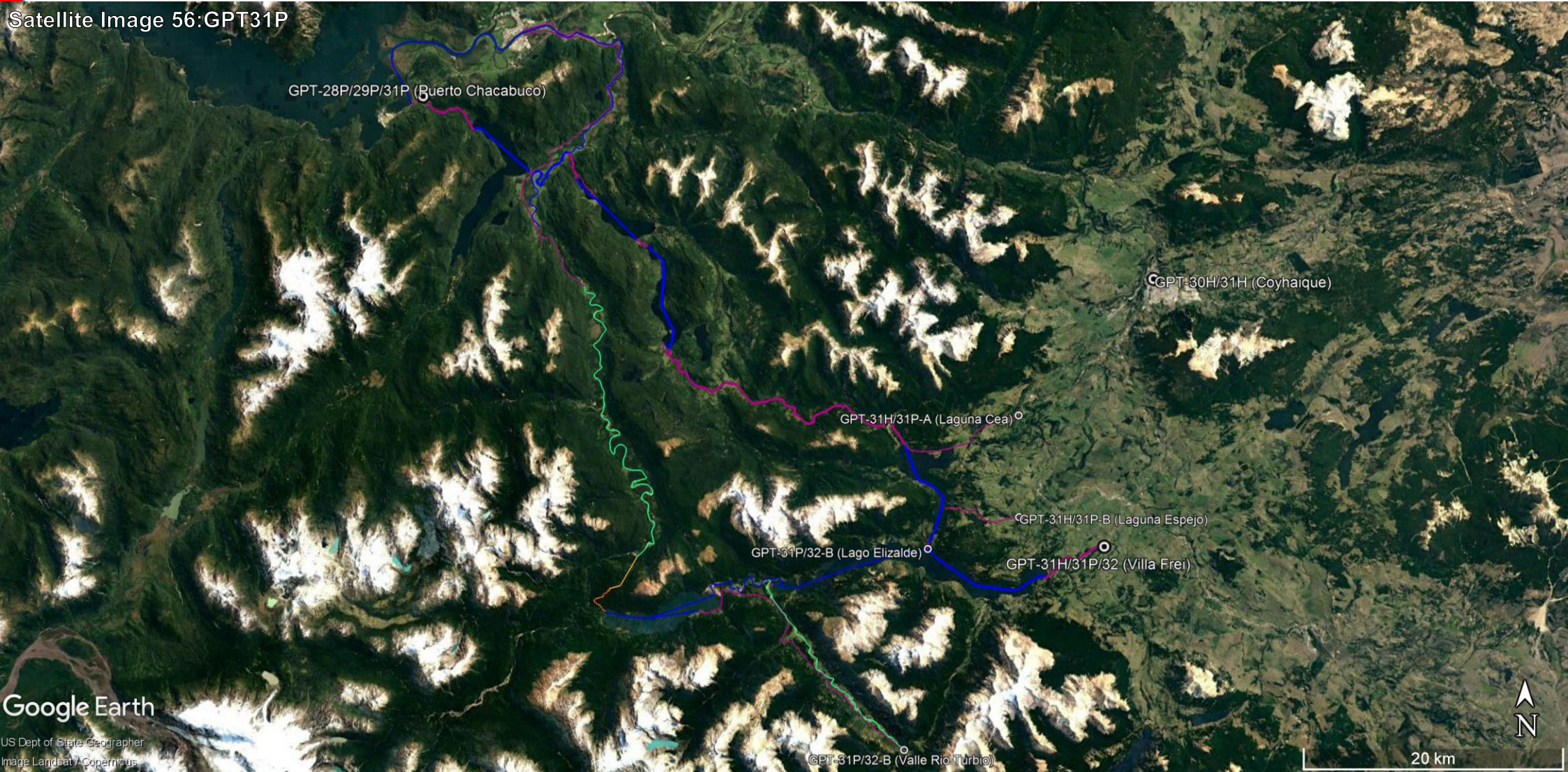
2.4.40 GPT31P: Lagos de Aysen

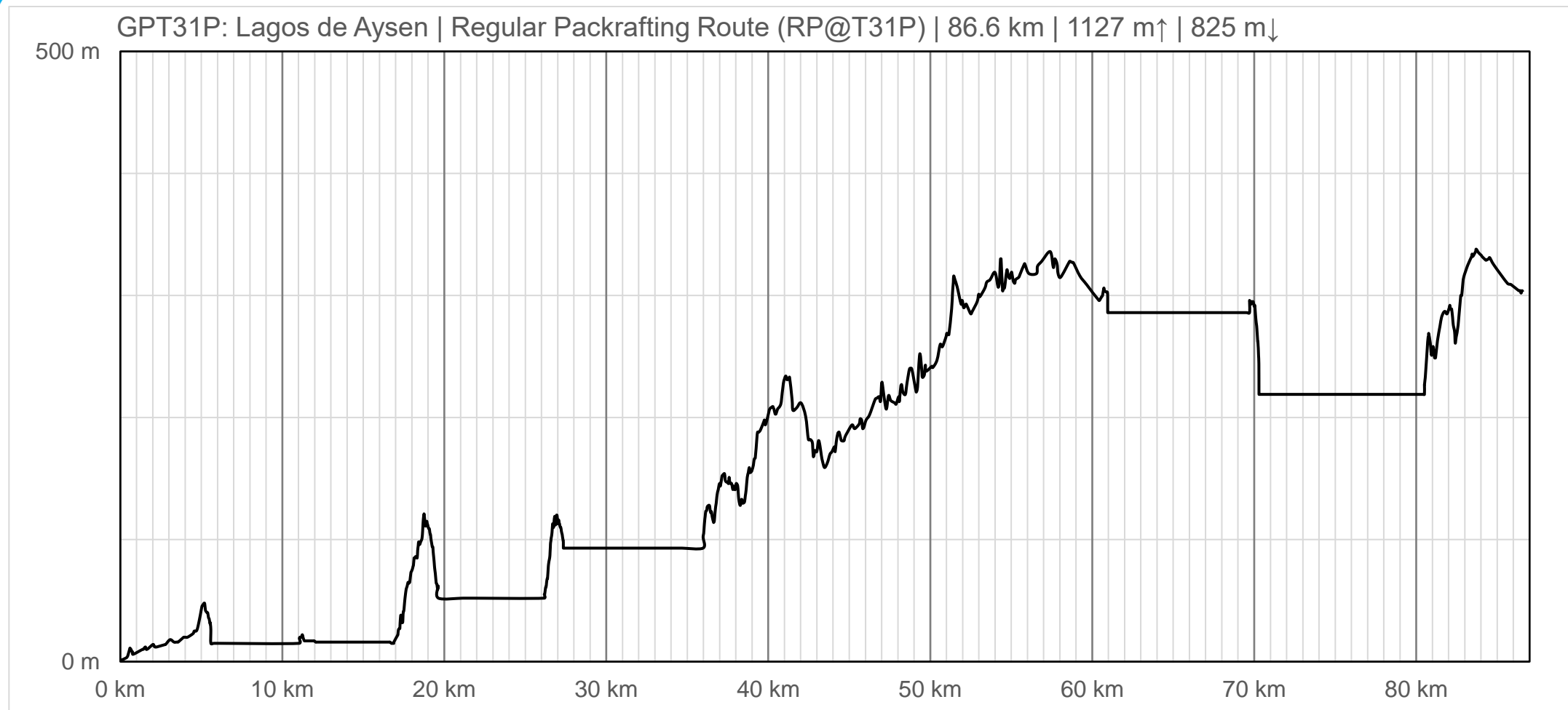
To be issued.

GPT31P: Lagos de Aysen		
Traversable	Sep - May	
Packraft	Required (45.2 km 45.2 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	4/5
Difficulty	No Rating	4/5
Distance	-	86.6 km 24 h
Direction	None	Both ↓↑
Comment	Hiking: Packraft required Packrafting: ↓ Recommended travel direction for regular route due to predominant wind direction ↑ Travel direction of not yet verified exploration option on Río Blanco	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	G: Zona Aysen Sector Norte	
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)	
Start	Puerto Chacabuco	
Finish	Villa Frei , (Lago Elizalde)	
Previous Section		Next Section
GPT28P		GPT32, GPT29P
		Alternative Section
		-

Table 72: GPT31P Section Summary

Satellite Image 56:GPT31P





Elevation Profile 58: GPT31P Regular Packrafting Route

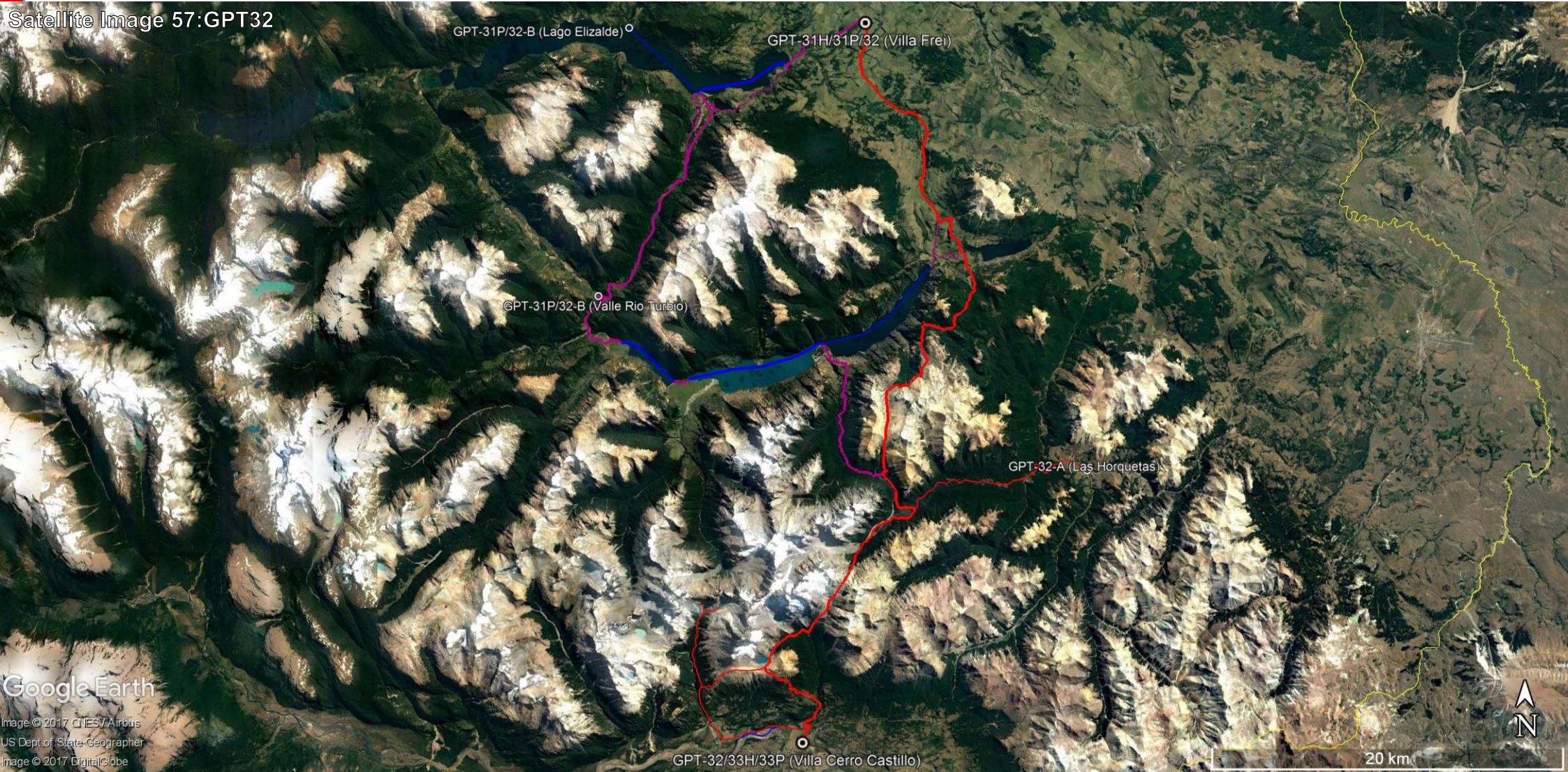
2.4.41 GPT32: Cerro Castillo

To be issued.

GPT32: Cerro Castillo		
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Conditionally: Nov, Apr)	
Packraft	Very Useful (17.2 km 17.2 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	5/5	5/5
Difficulty	5/5	5/5
Distance	60.7 km 21 h	84.5 km 28 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	H: Zona Aysen Sector Sur	
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)	
Start	Villa Frei , (Lago Elizalde)	
Finish	Villa Cerro Castillo	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT31H, GPT31P	GPT33H, GPT33P	-

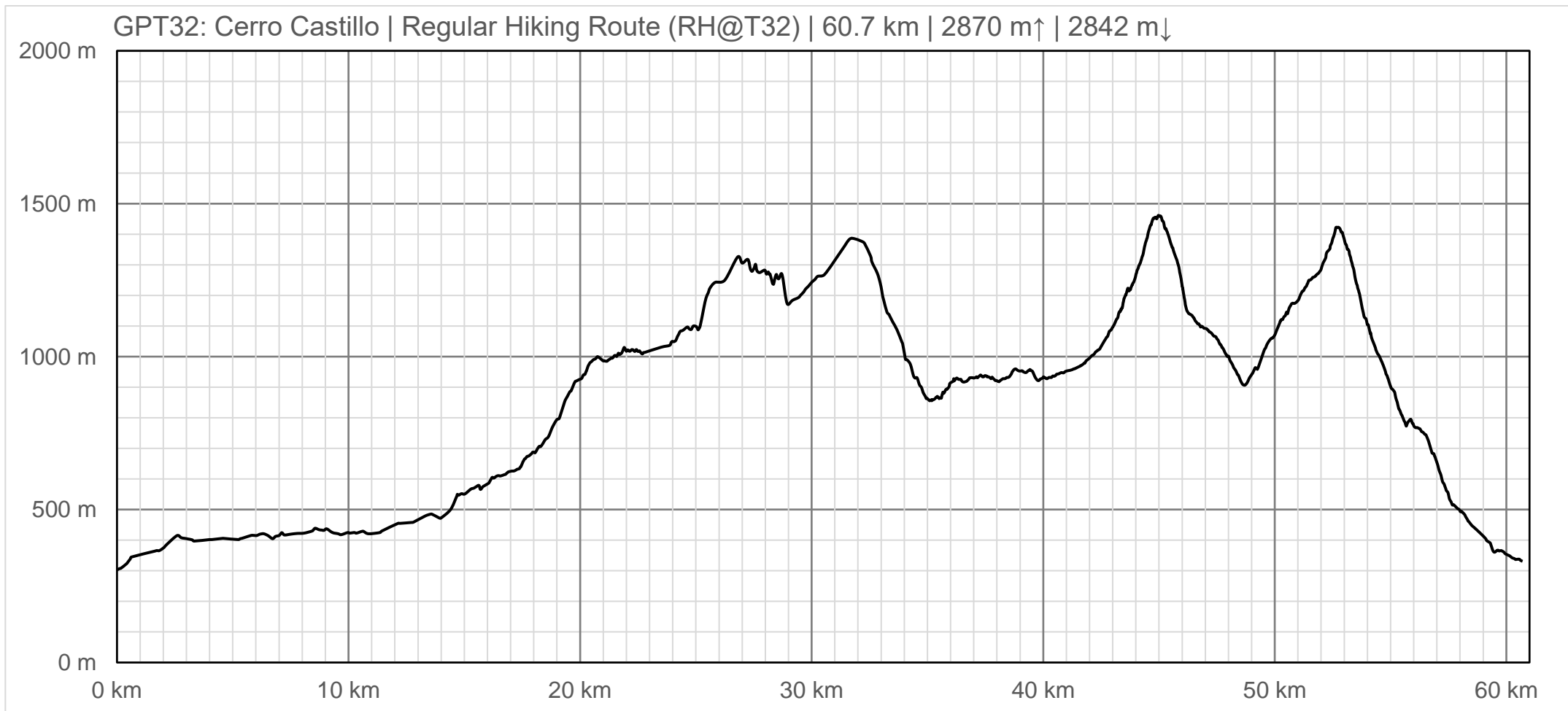
Table 73: GPT32 Section Summary

Satellite Image 57:GPT32

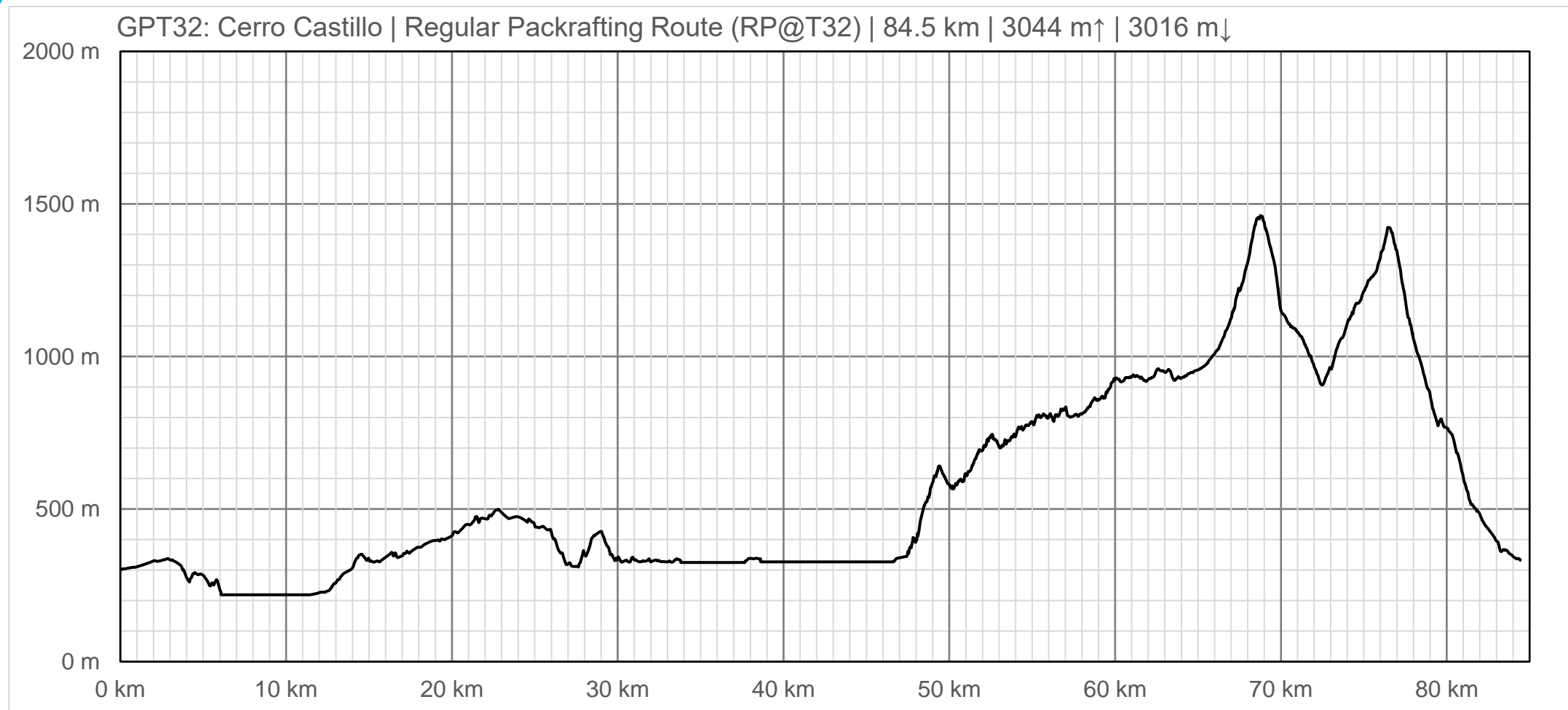


Google Earth

Image © 2017 CNES/Airbus
US Dept of State Geographer
Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe



Elevation Profile 59: GPT32 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 60: GPT32 Regular Packrafting Route

2.4.42 GPT33H: Puerto Ibañez

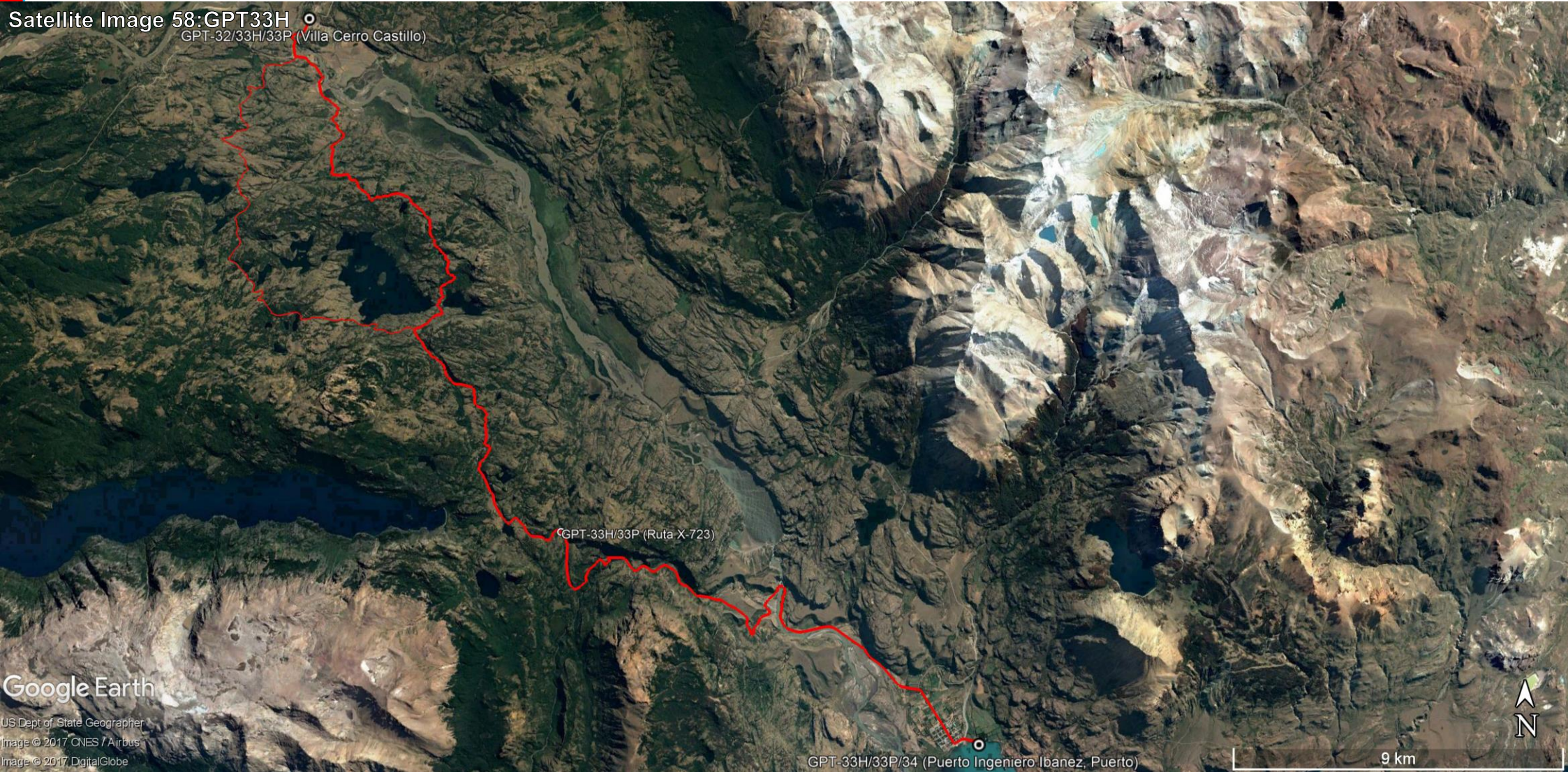
To be issued.

GPT33H: Puerto Ibañez		
Traversable	Sep - May	
Packraft	Only Burden	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	3/5	No Rating
Difficulty	1/5	No Rating
Distance	40.6 km 11 h	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	H: Zona Aysen Sector Sur	
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)	
Start	Villa Cerro Castillo	
Finish	Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez, Puerto	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT32	GPT34	GPT33P

Table 74: GPT33H Section Summary

Satellite Image 58:GPT33H

GPT-32/33H/33P (Villa Cerro Castillo)



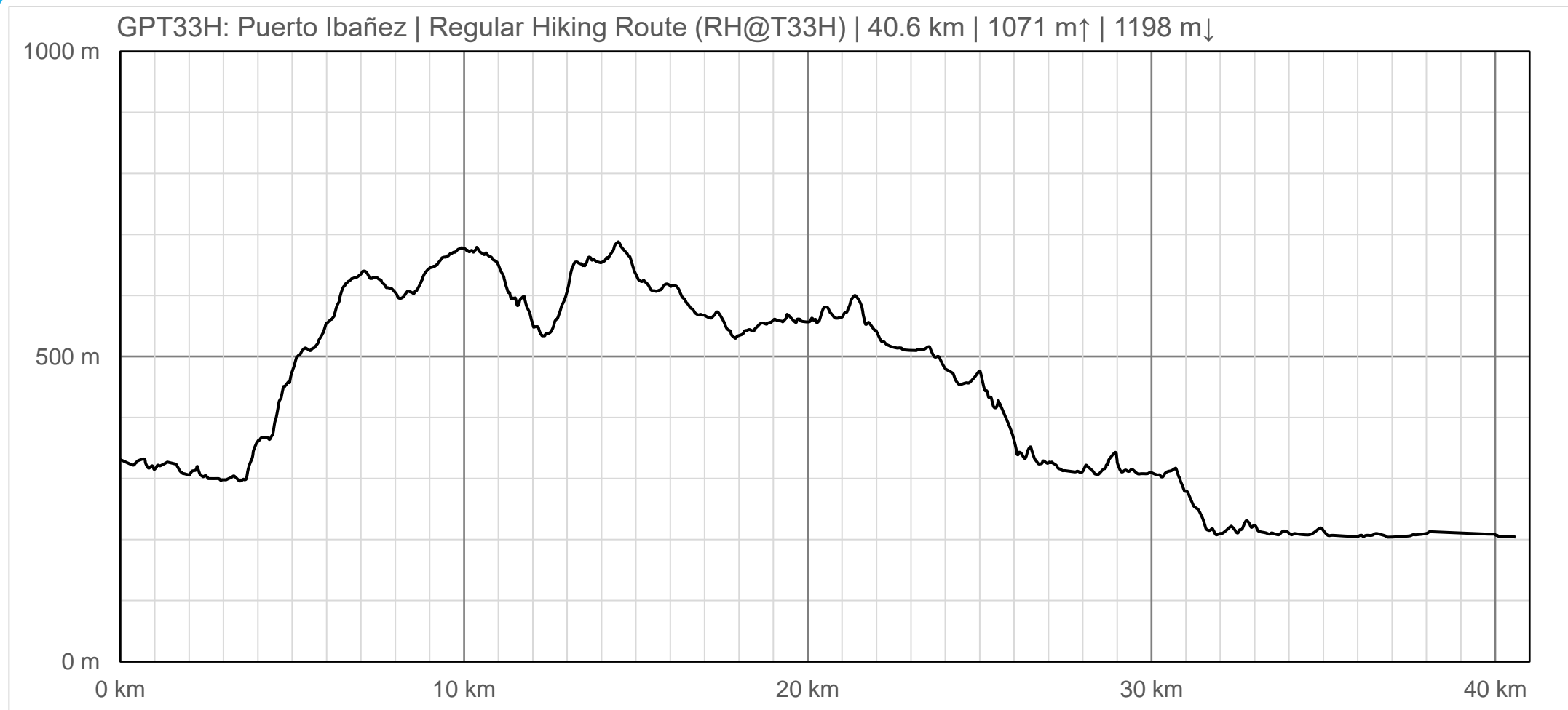
Google Earth

US Dept of State Geographer
Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe

GPT-33H/33P/34 (Puerto Ingeniero Ibanez, Puerto)

9 km





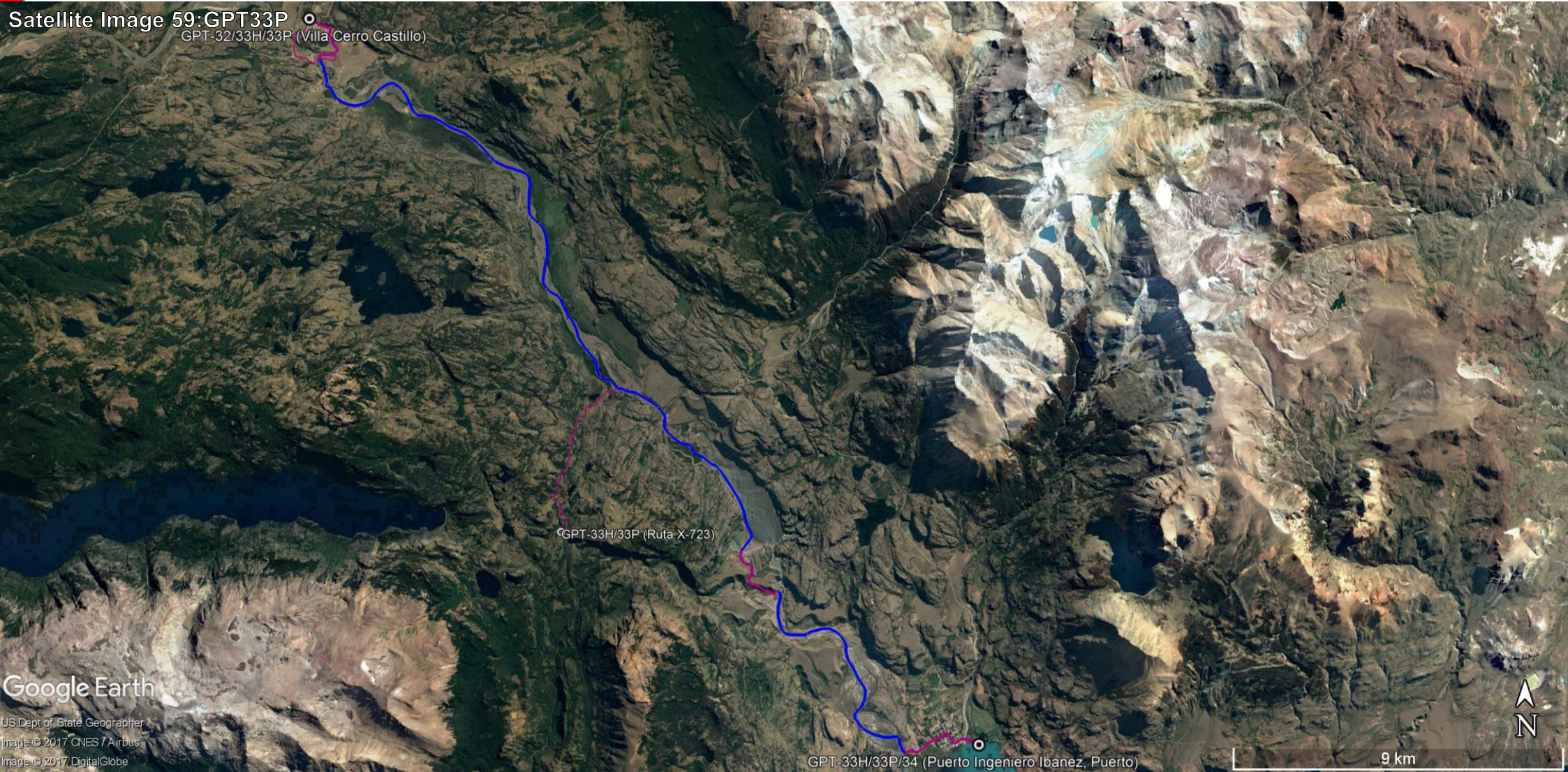
Elevation Profile 61: GPT33H Regular Hiking Route

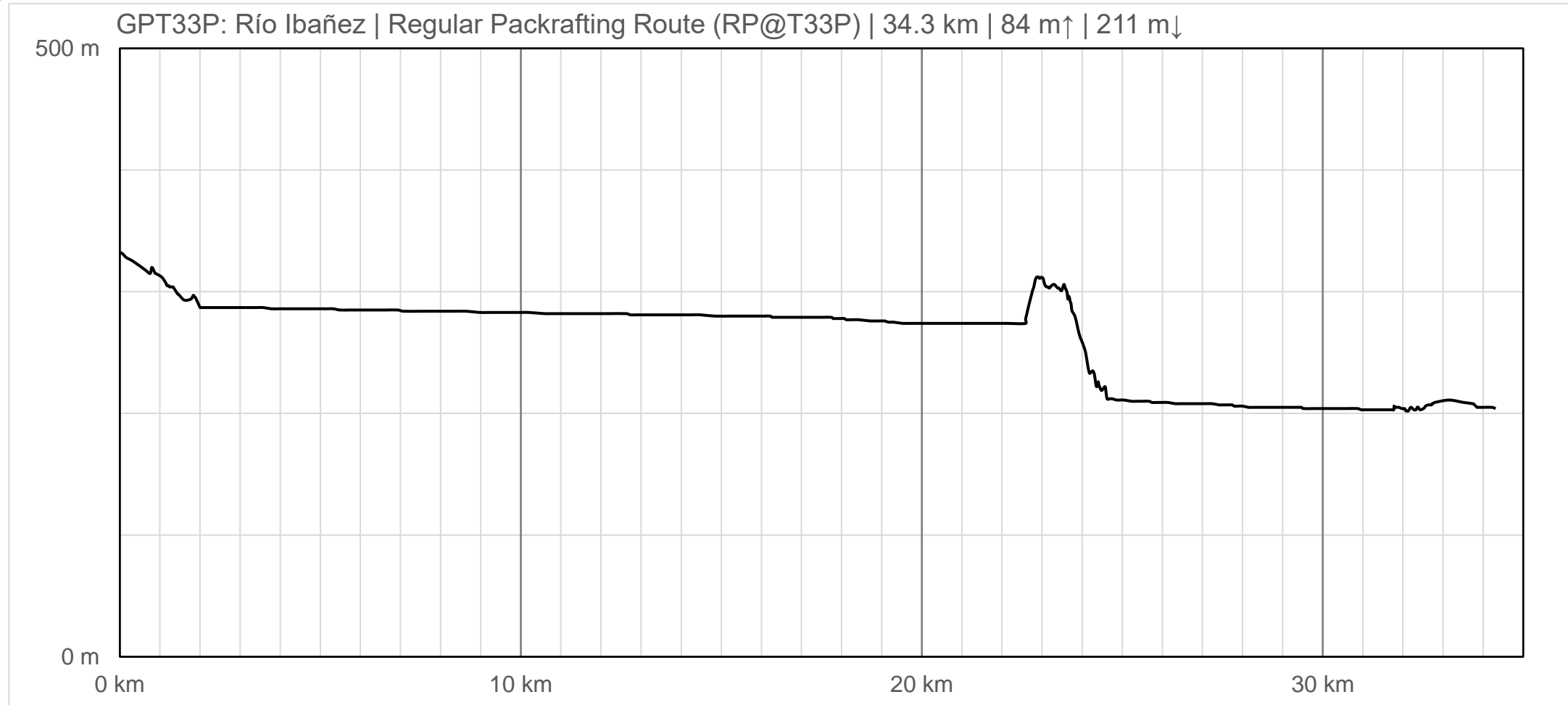
2.4.43 GPT33P: Río Ibañez

To be issued.

GPT33P: Río Ibañez		
Traversable	Sep - May	
Packraft	Required (27.8 km 27.8 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	4/5
Difficulty	No Rating	3/5
Distance	-	34.3 km 7 h
Direction	None	Only ↓
Comment	Hiking: Packraft required	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	H: Zona Aysen Sector Sur	
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)	
Start	Villa Cerro Castillo	
Finish	Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez, Puerto	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT32	GPT34	GPT33H

Table 75: GPT33P Section Summary





Elevation Profile 62: GPT33P Regular Packrafting Route

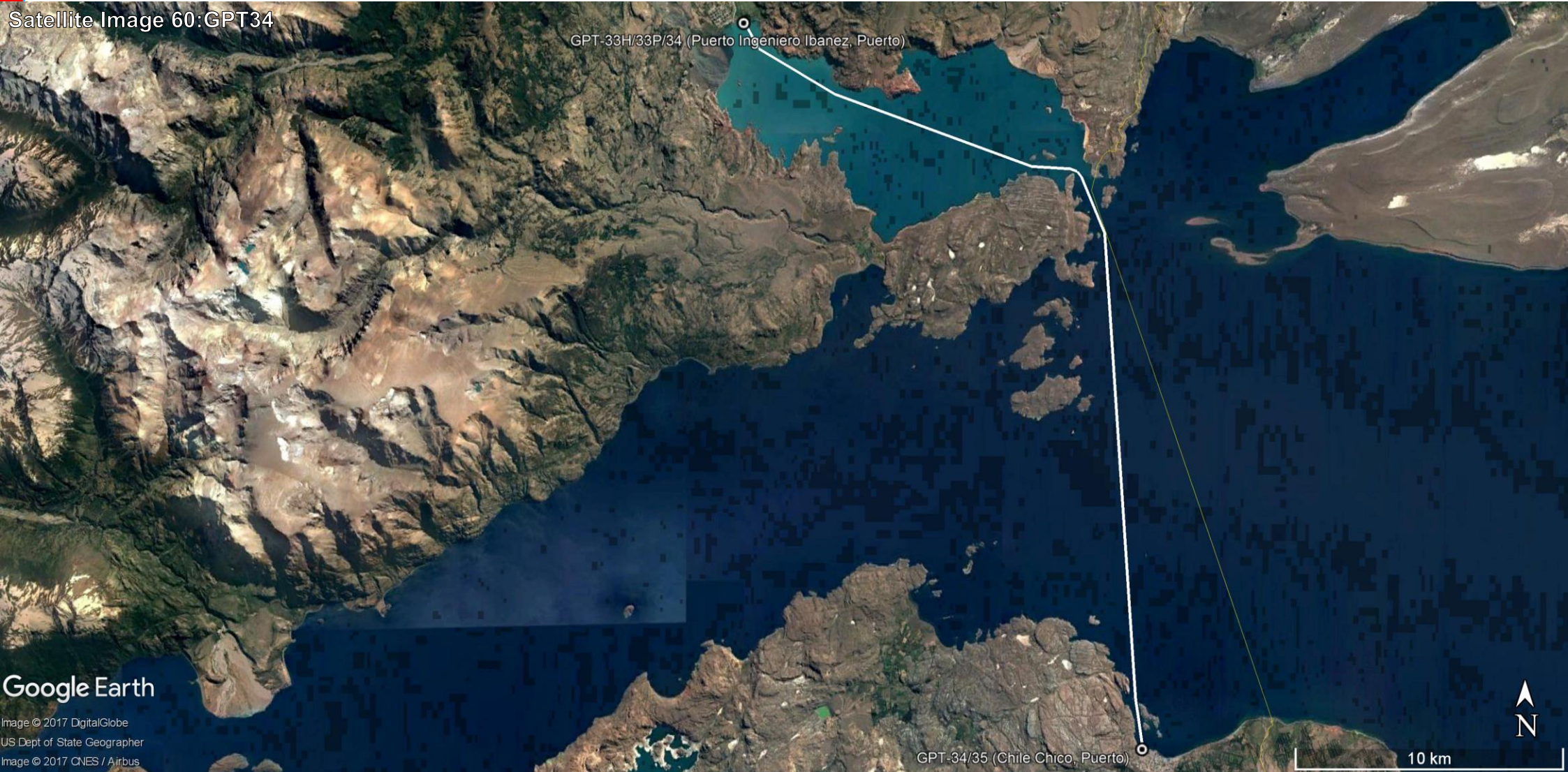
2.4.44 GPT34: Lago General Carrera

To be issued.

GPT34: Lago General Carrera		
Traversable	Sep - May	
Packraft	Ferry Only	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	H: Zona Aysen Sector Sur	
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)	
Start	Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez, Puerto	
Finish	Chile Chico, Puerto	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT33H, GPT33P	GPT35	-

Table 76: GPT34 Section Summary

Satellite Image 60: GPT34



Google Earth

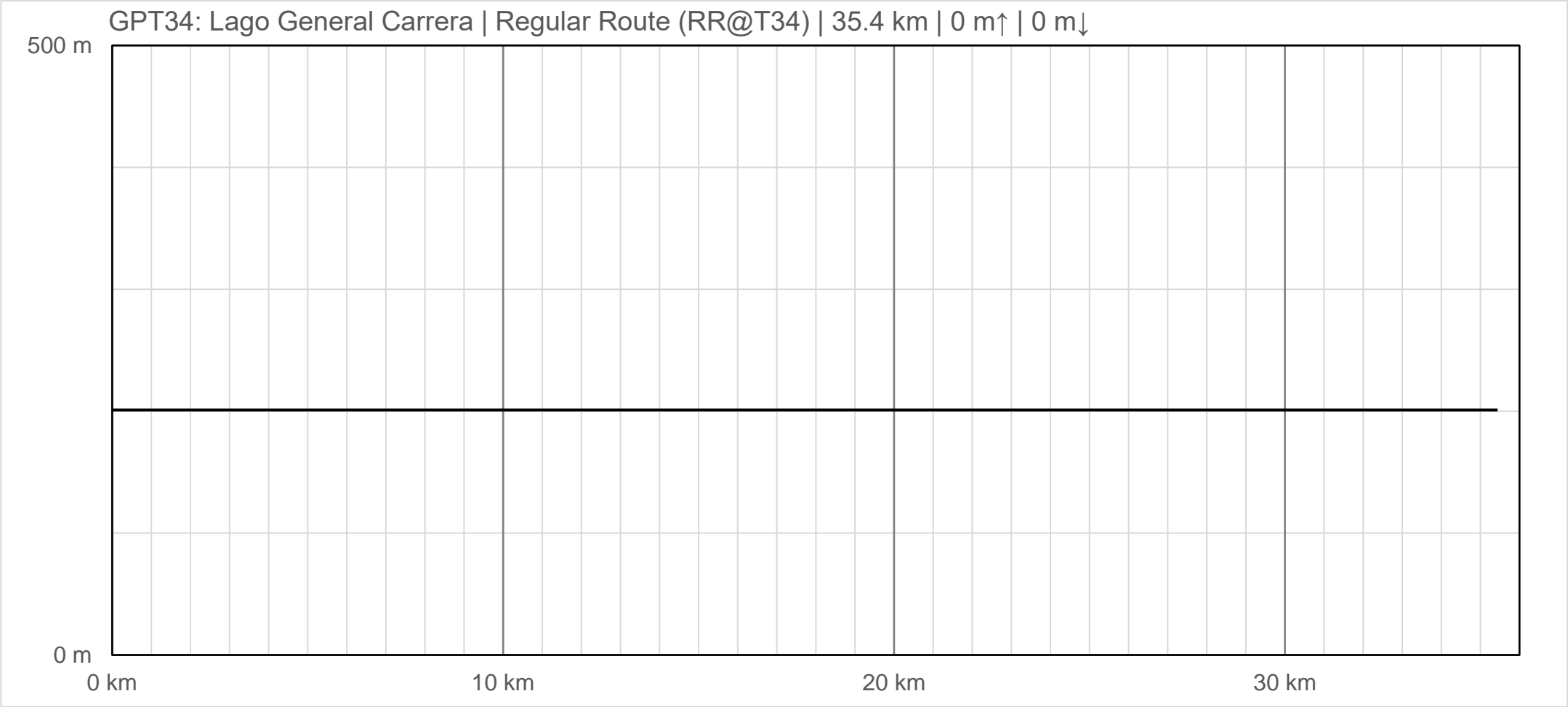
Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe

US Dept of State Geographer

Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus

GPT-34/35 (Chile Chico, Puerto)

10 km



Elevation Profile 63: GPT34 Regular Route

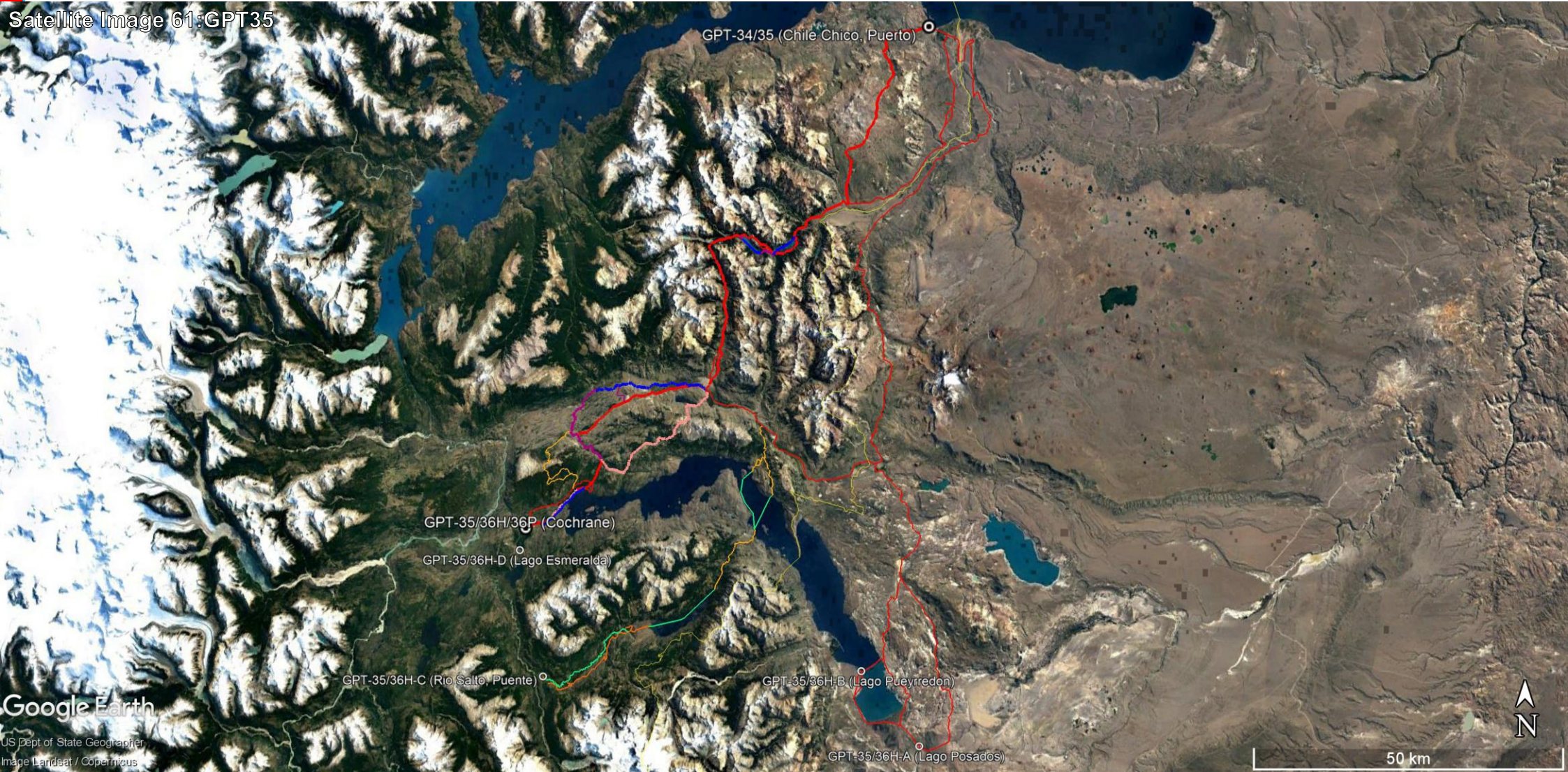
2.4.45 GPT35: RN Lago Jenimeni

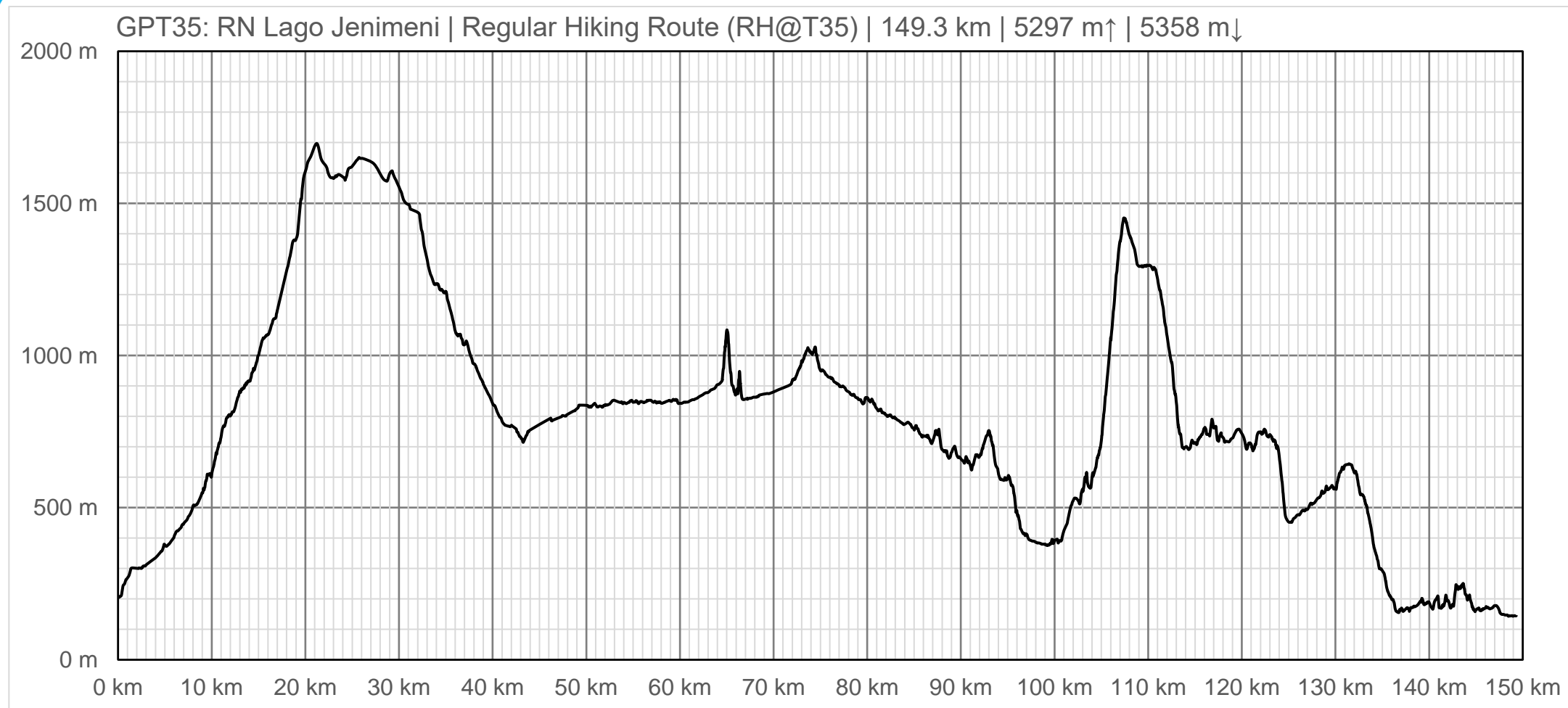
To be issued.

GPT35: RN Lago Jenimeni		
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Conditionally: Oct, May)	
Packraft	Very Useful (38.8 km 38.8 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	4/5	5/5
Difficulty	5/5	5/5
Distance	149.3 km 47 h	156.3 km 44 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	H: Zona Aysen Sector Sur	
Region	Chile & (Argentina): Aysén (XI)	
Start	Chile Chico, Puerto	
Finish	Cochrane	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT34	GPT36H, GPT36P	-

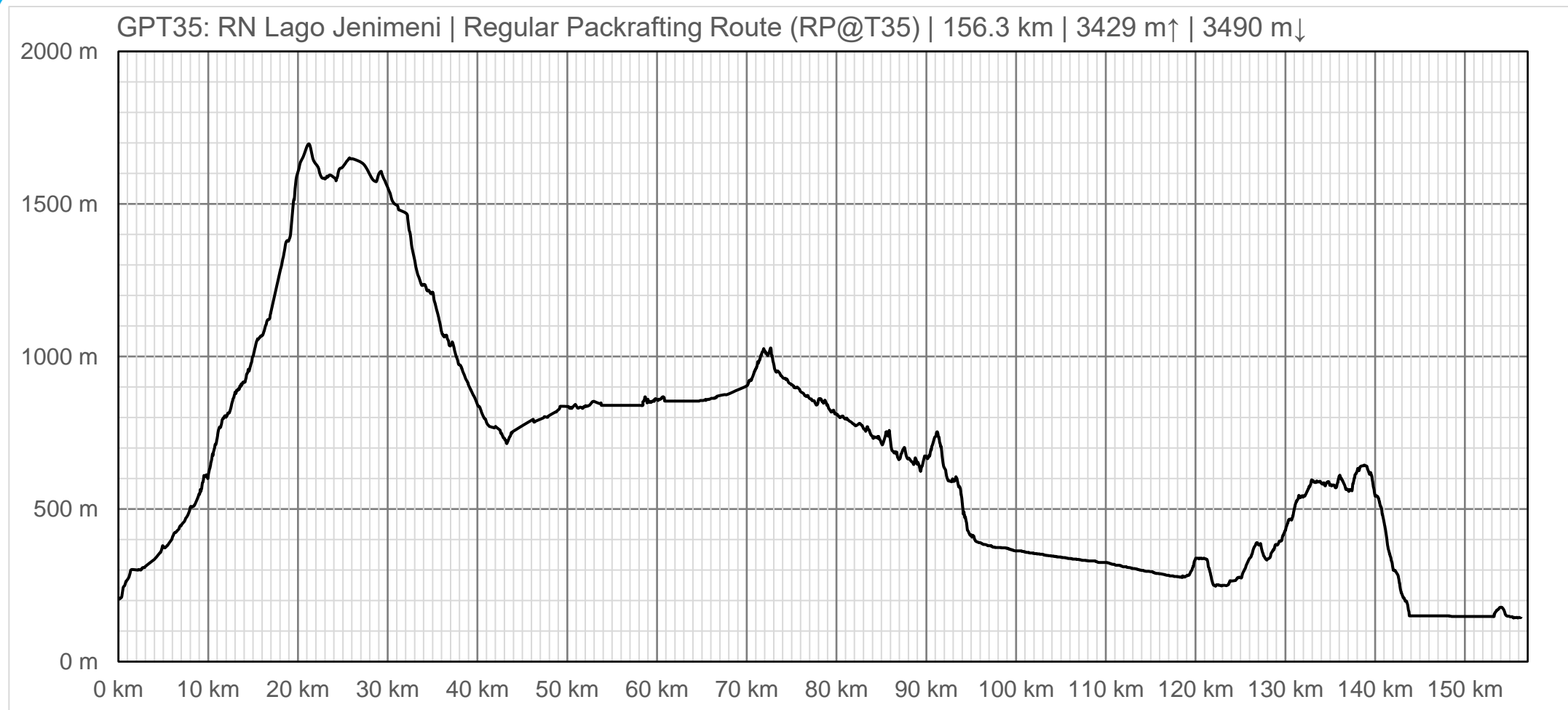
Table 77: GPT35 Section Summary

Satellite Image 61:GPT35





Elevation Profile 64: GPT35 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 65: GPT35 Regular Packrafting Route

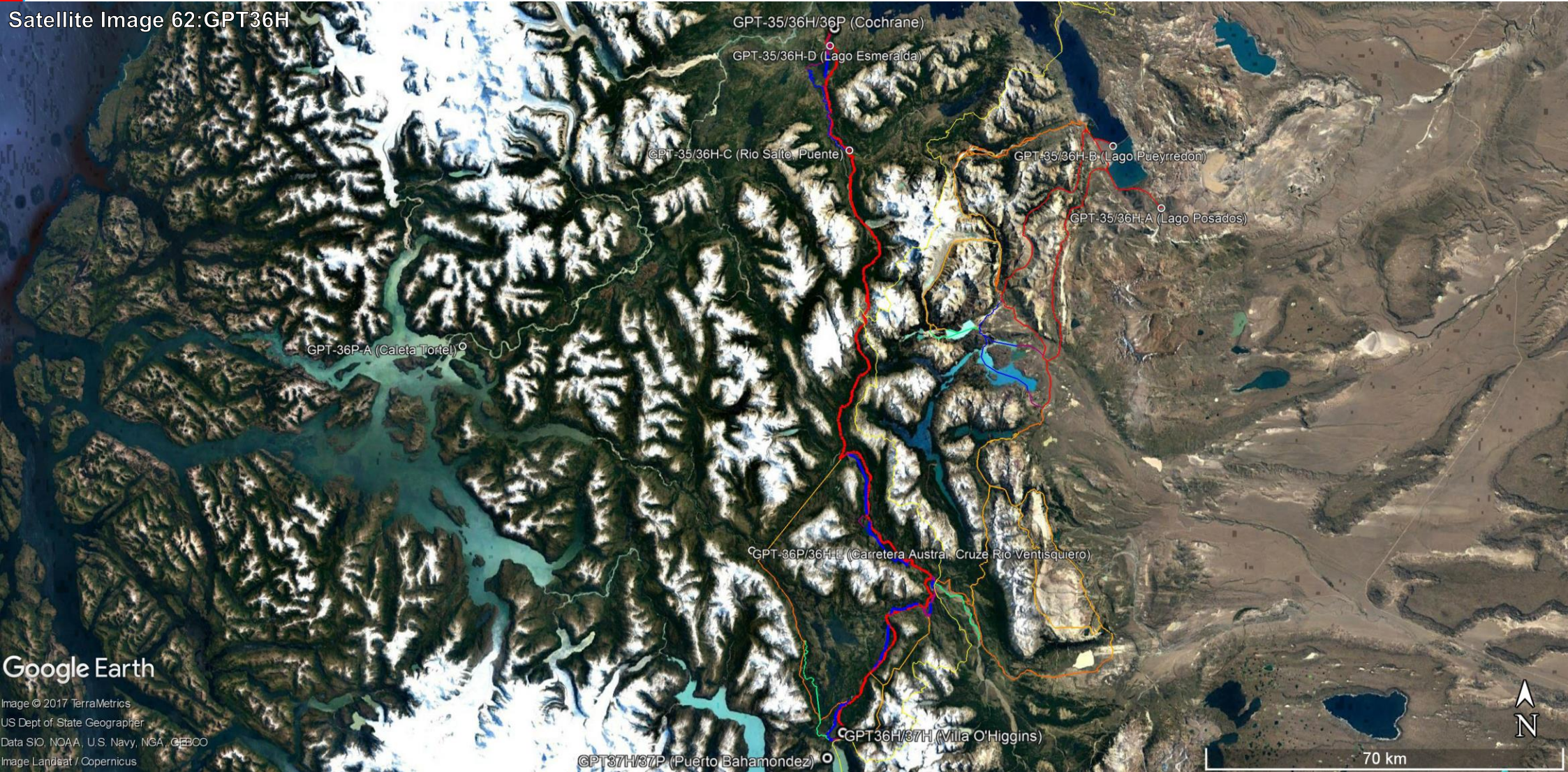
2.4.46 GPT36H: Ruta De Los Pioneros

To be issued.

GPT36H: Ruta De Los Pioneros		
Traversable	Dec - Mar (Conditionally: Nov, Apr)	
Packraft	Very Useful (60.5 km 60.5 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	4/5	5/5
Difficulty	5/5	5/5
Distance	194.7 km 56 h	200.1 km 55 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	H: Zona Aysen Sector Sur	
Region	Chile & (Argentina): Aysén (XI)	
Start	Cochrane	
Finish	Villa O'Higgins, Puerto Bahamóndez	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT35, GPT36P	GPT37H, GPT37P	GPT36P

Table 78: GPT36H Section Summary

Satellite Image 62:GPT36H



Google Earth

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US Dept of State Geographer
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus

GPT37H/37P (Puerto Bahamondez)

GPT-36H/37H (Villa O'Higgins)

GPT-36P/36H-E (Carretera Austral, Cruce Rio Ventisquero)

GPT-36P-A (Caleta Tortel)

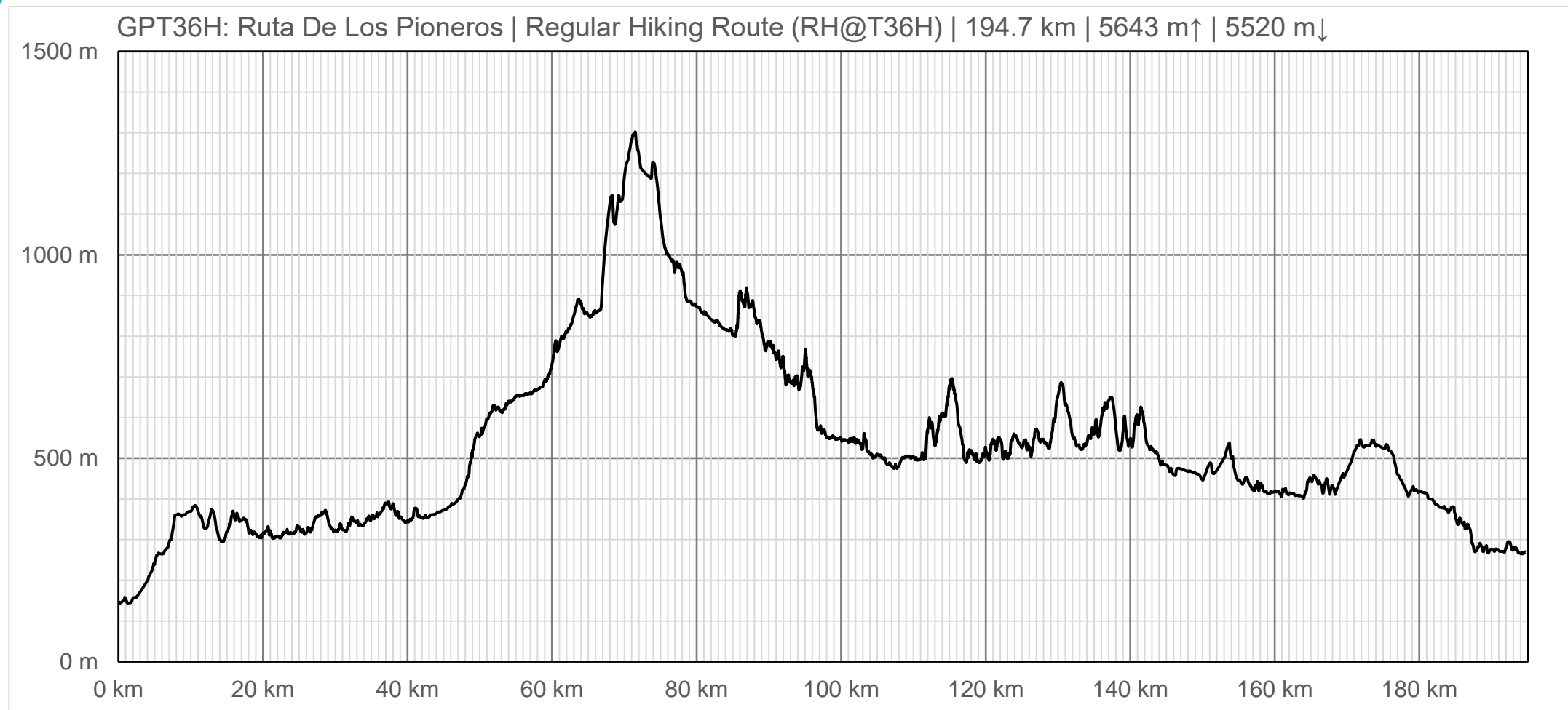
GPT-35/36H-A (Lago Posados)

GPT-35/36H-B (Lago Pueyrredon)

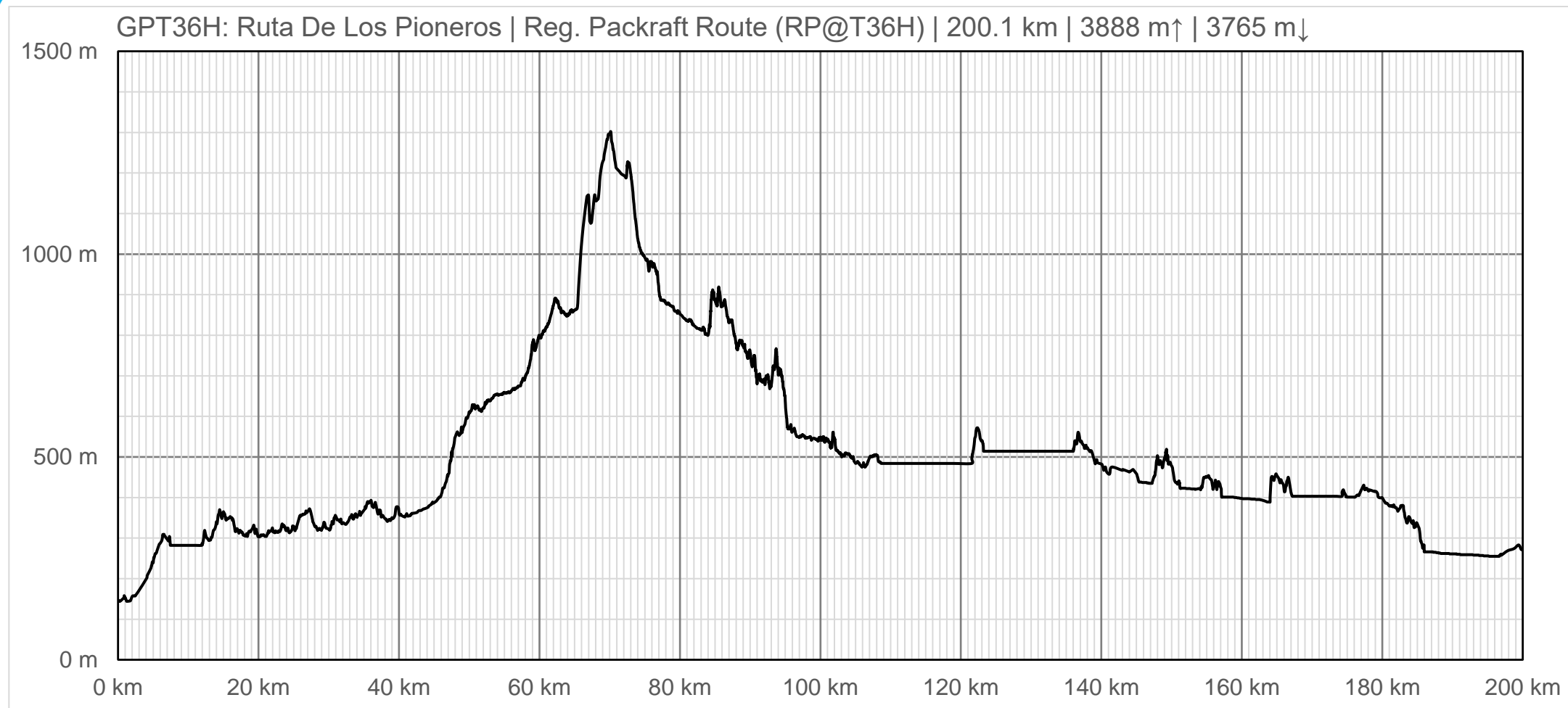
GPT-35/36H-C (Rio Salto, Puente)

GPT-35/36H-D (Lago Esmeralda)

GPT-35/36H/36P (Cochrane)



Elevation Profile 66: GPT36H Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 67: GPT36P Regular Packrafting Route

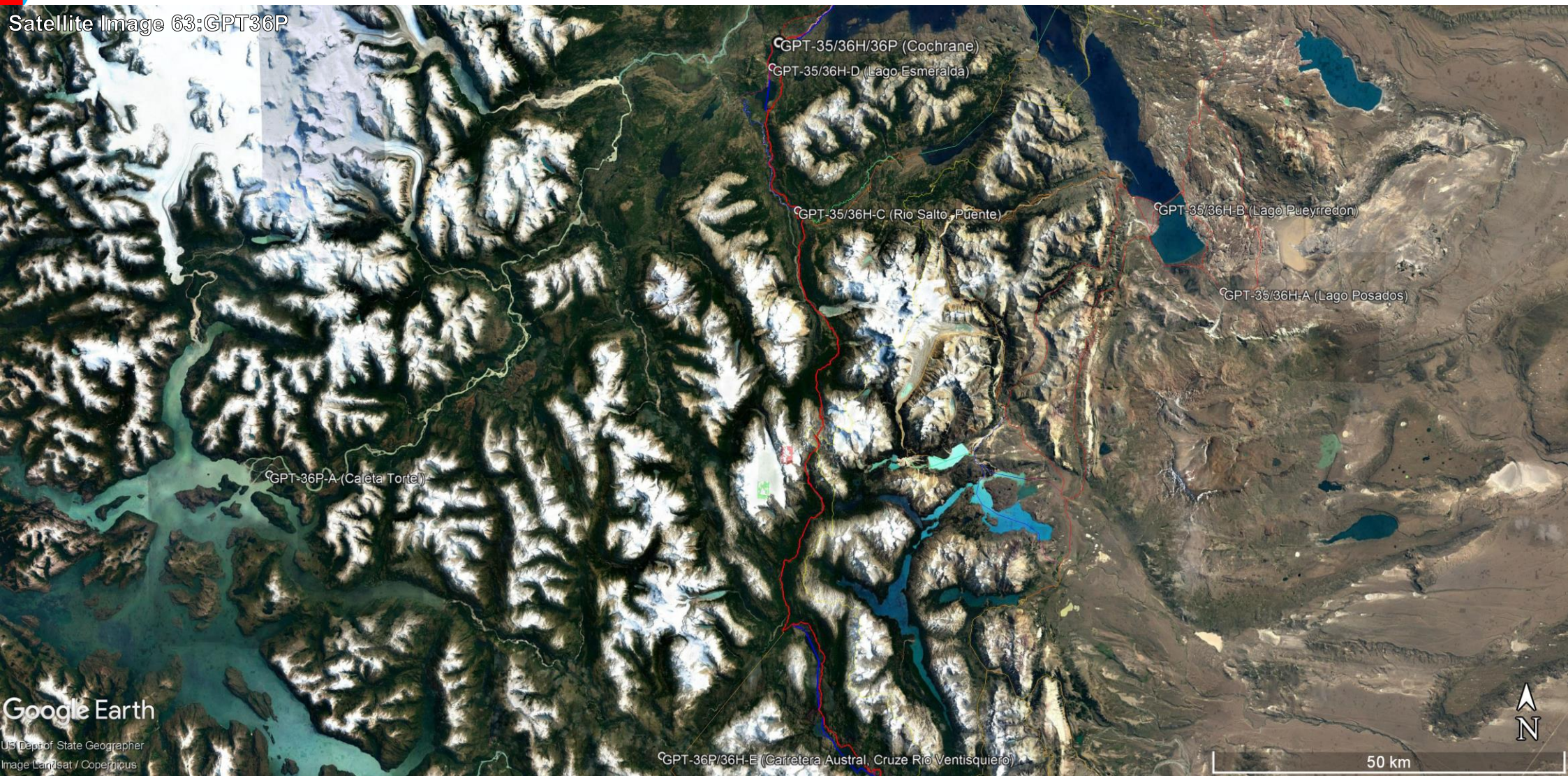
2.4.47 GPT36P: Río Baker

To be issued.

GPT36P: Río Baker		
Traversable	Sep - May	
Packraft	Required	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	5/5
Difficulty	No Rating	6/5
Distance	-	-
Direction	None	Only ↓
Comment	Hiking: Packraft required	
Status	To be Planned, To be Verified BY EXPERTS ONLY	
Zone	H: Zona Aysen Sector Sur	
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)	
Start	Cochrane	
Finish	Caleta Tortel , (Carretera Austral, Sector Rio Bravo)	
Previous Section		Next Section
GPT35		Finish, GPT36H
		Alternative Section
		GPT36H

Table 79: GPT36P Section Summary

Satellite Image 63:GPT36P



2.4.48 GPT37H: Lago O'Higgins

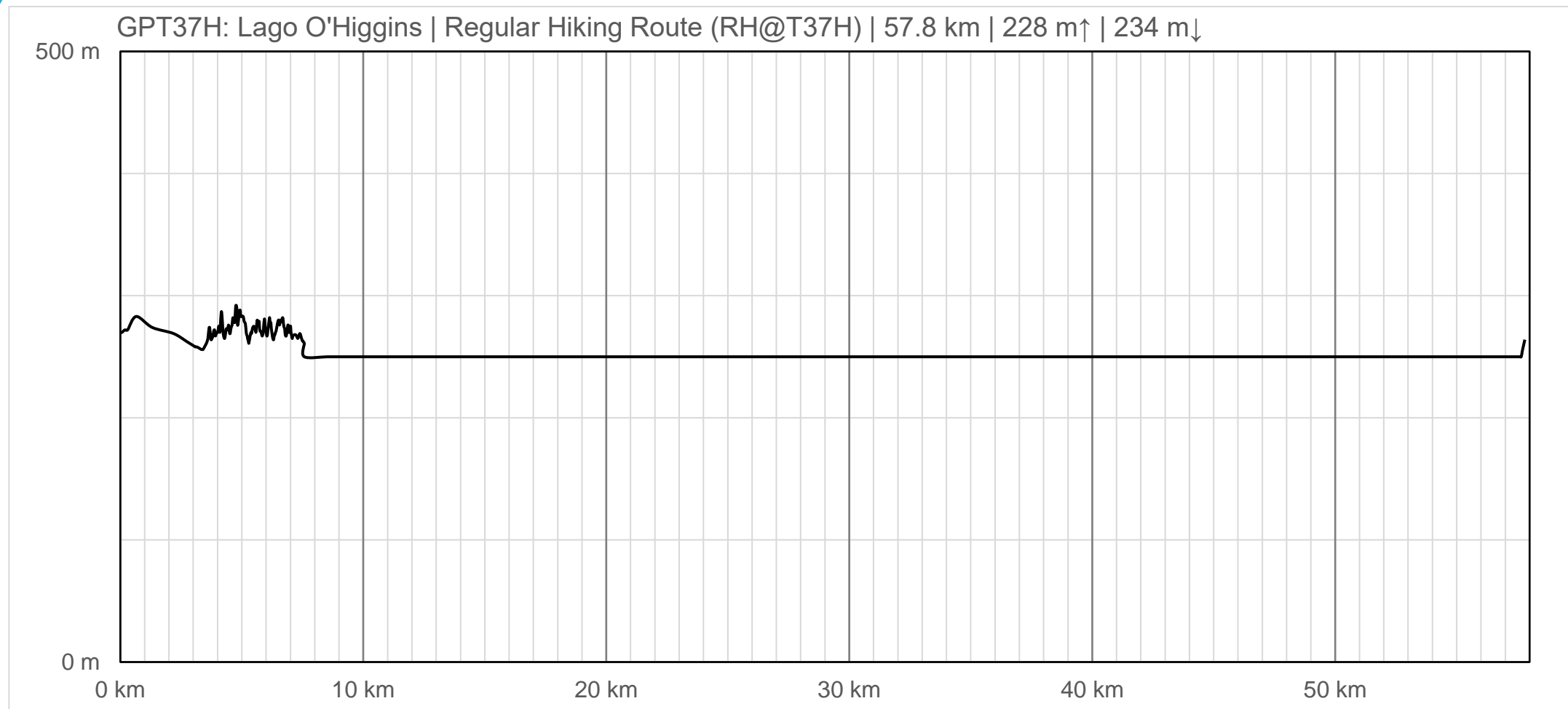
To be issued.

GPT37H: Lago O'Higgins		
Traversable	Sep - May	
Packraft	Ferry Mainly (3.6 km 3.6 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	7.6 km 2 h	7.0 km 1 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	I: Zona Campo de Hielo Sur Sector Norte	
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)	
Start	Villa O'Higgins, Puerto Bahamóndez	
Finish	Candelario Mancillo, Puerto	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT36H	GPT38	GPT37P

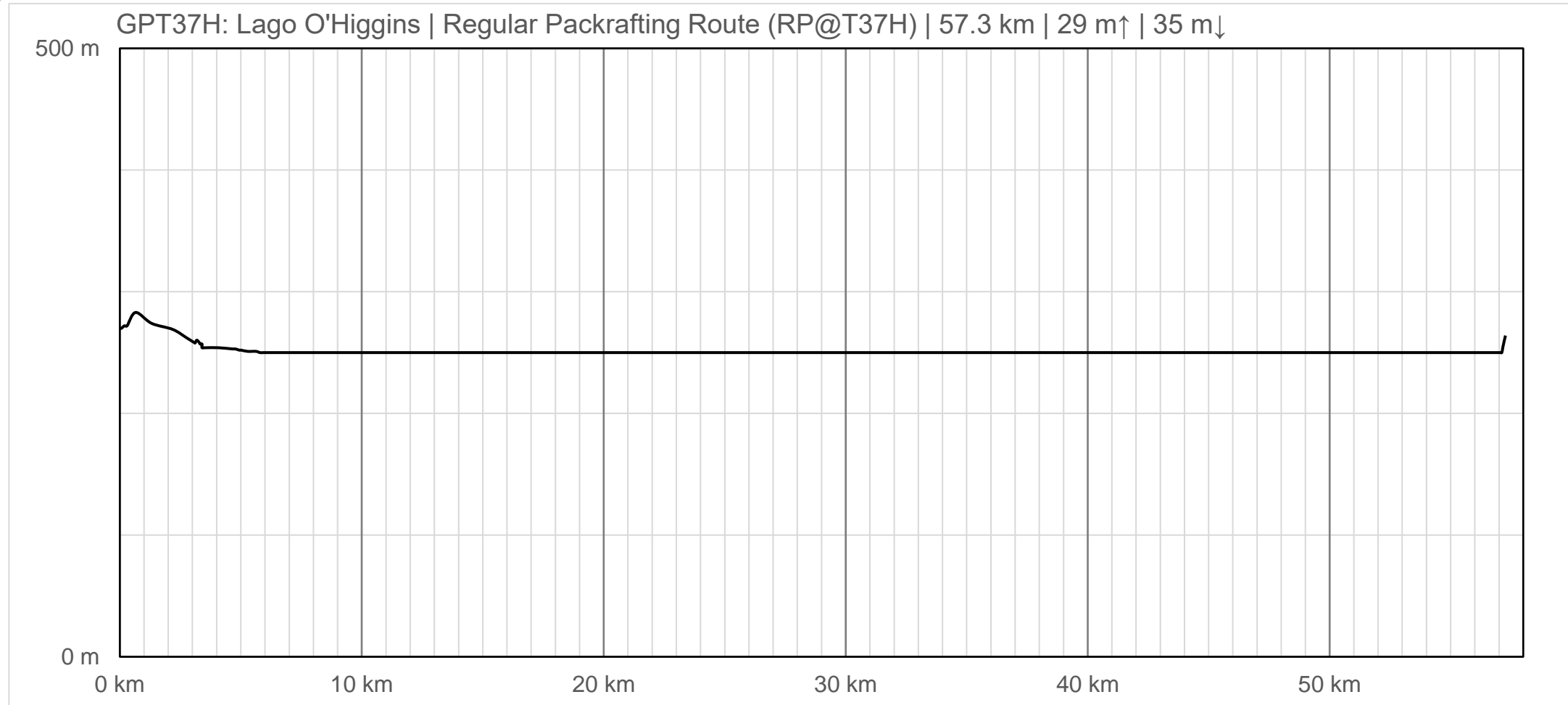
Table 80: GPT37H Section Summary

Satellite Image 64:GPT37H





Elevation Profile 68: GPT37H Regular Hiking Route



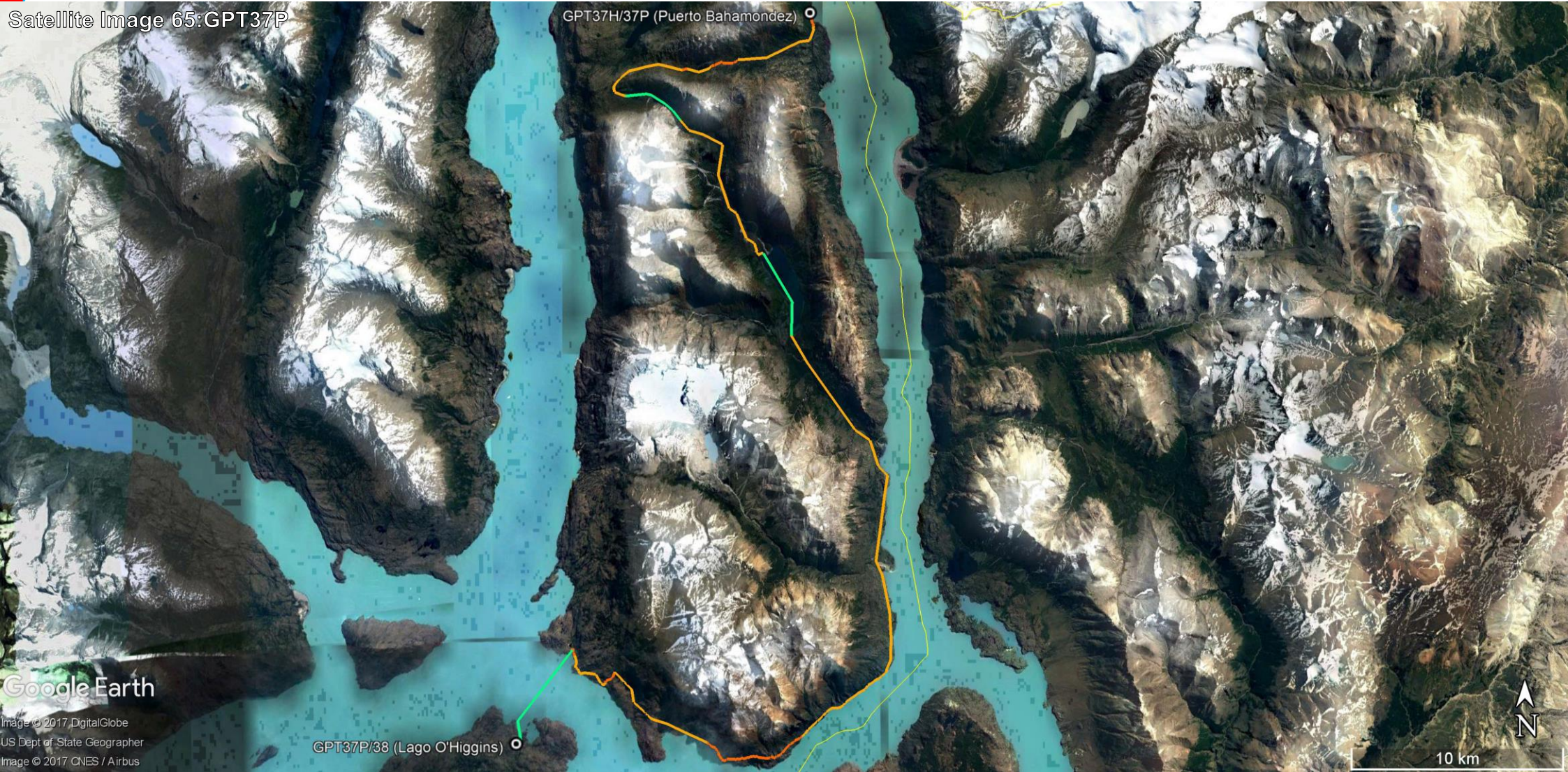
Elevation Profile 69: GPT37H Regular Packrafting Route

2.4.49 GPT37P: Penunsila La Florida

To be issued.

GPT37P: Penunsila La Florida		
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Conditionally: Oct, May)	
Packraft	Required	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	4/5
Difficulty	No Rating	6/5
Distance	-	-
Direction	None	Both ↓↑
Comment	Hiking: Packraft required	
Status	To be Planned, To be Verified BY EXPERTS ONLY	
Zone	I: Zona Campo de Hielo Sur Sector Norte	
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)	
Start	Villa O'Higgins, Puerto Bahamóndez	
Finish	Candelario Mancillo, Puerto	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT36H	GPT38	GPT37H

Table 81: GPT37P Section Summary



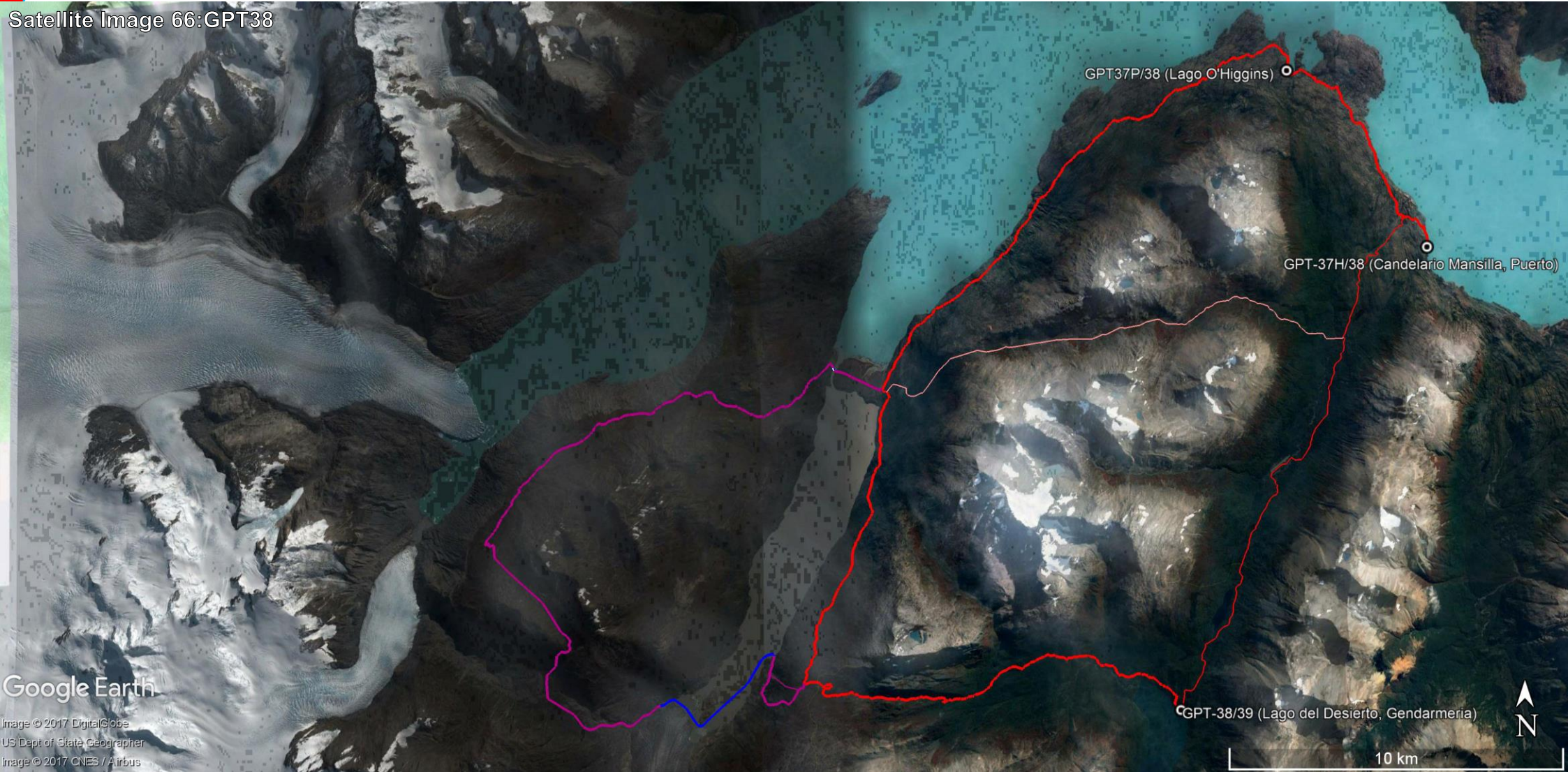
2.4.50 GPT38: Glaciar Chico

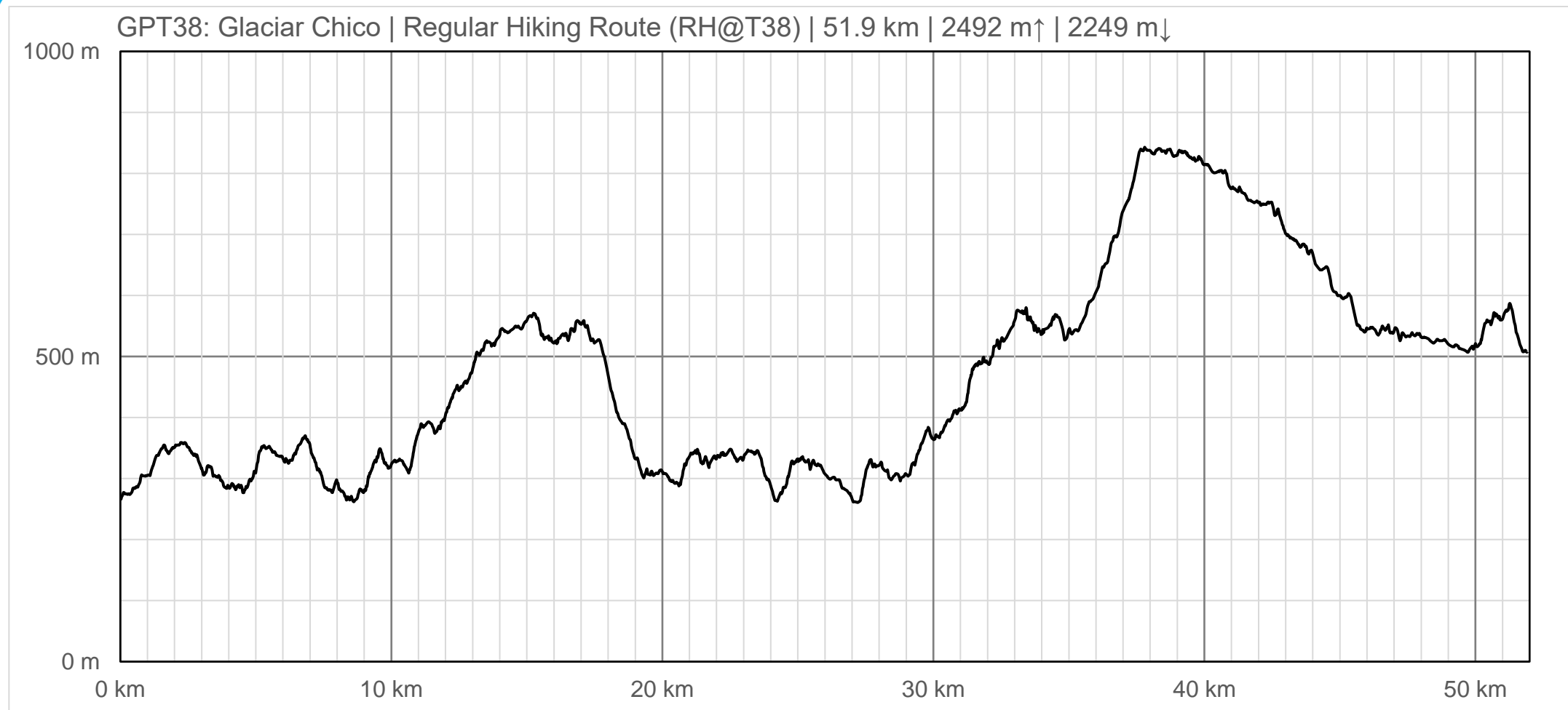
To be issued.

GPT38: Glaciar Chico		
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Conditionally: Sep, Oct, May)	
Packraft	Very Useful (4.9 km 4.9 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	5/5	5/5
Difficulty	4/5	4/5
Distance	51.9 km 18 h	75.8 km 27 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	I: Zona Campo de Hielo Sur Sector Norte	
Region	Chile & Argentina: Aysén (XI) & Rio Negro	
Start	Candelario Mancillo, Puerto	
Finish	Lago El Desierto, Gendarmeria	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT37H, GPT37P	GPT39	-

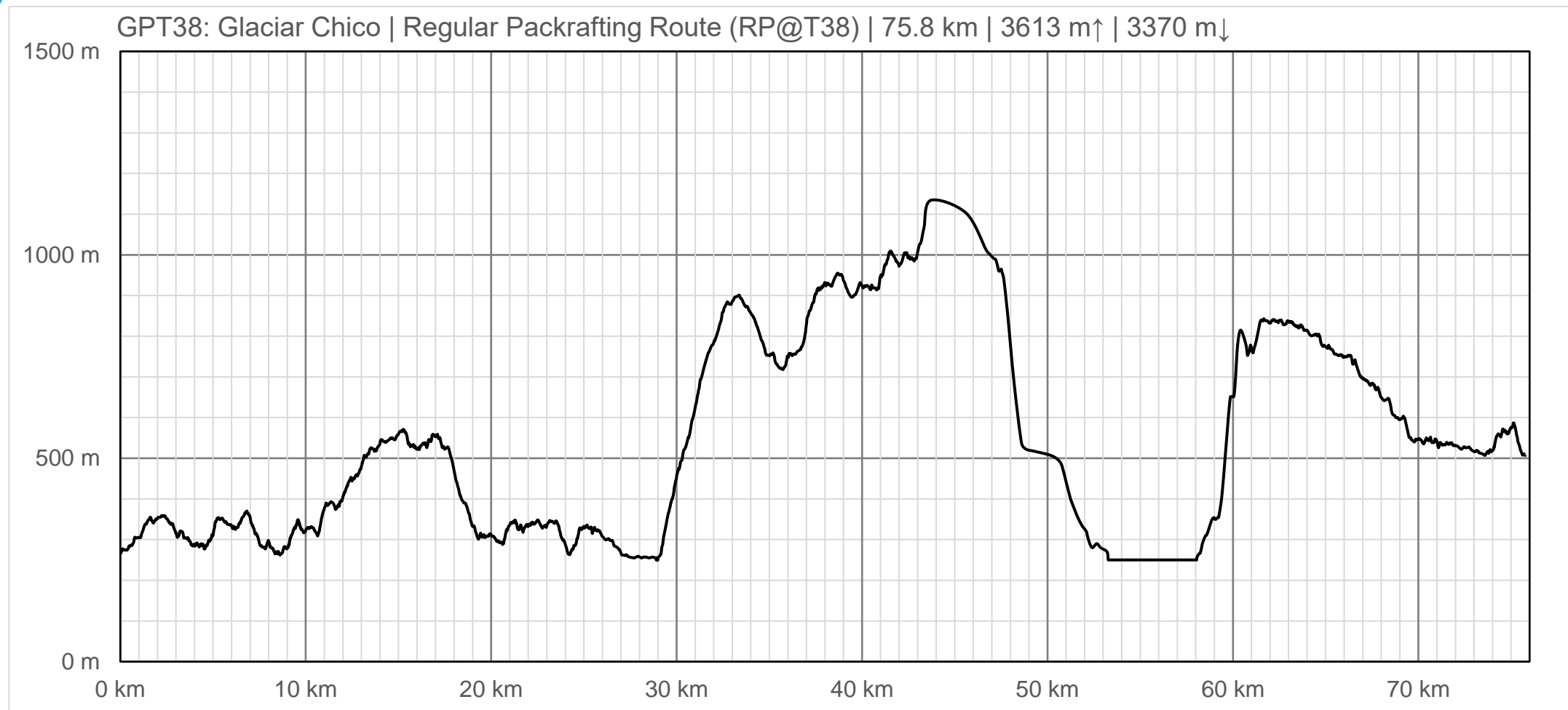
Table 82: GPT38 Section Summary

Satellite Image 66:GPT38





Elevation Profile 70: GPT38 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 71: GPT38 Regular Packrafting Route

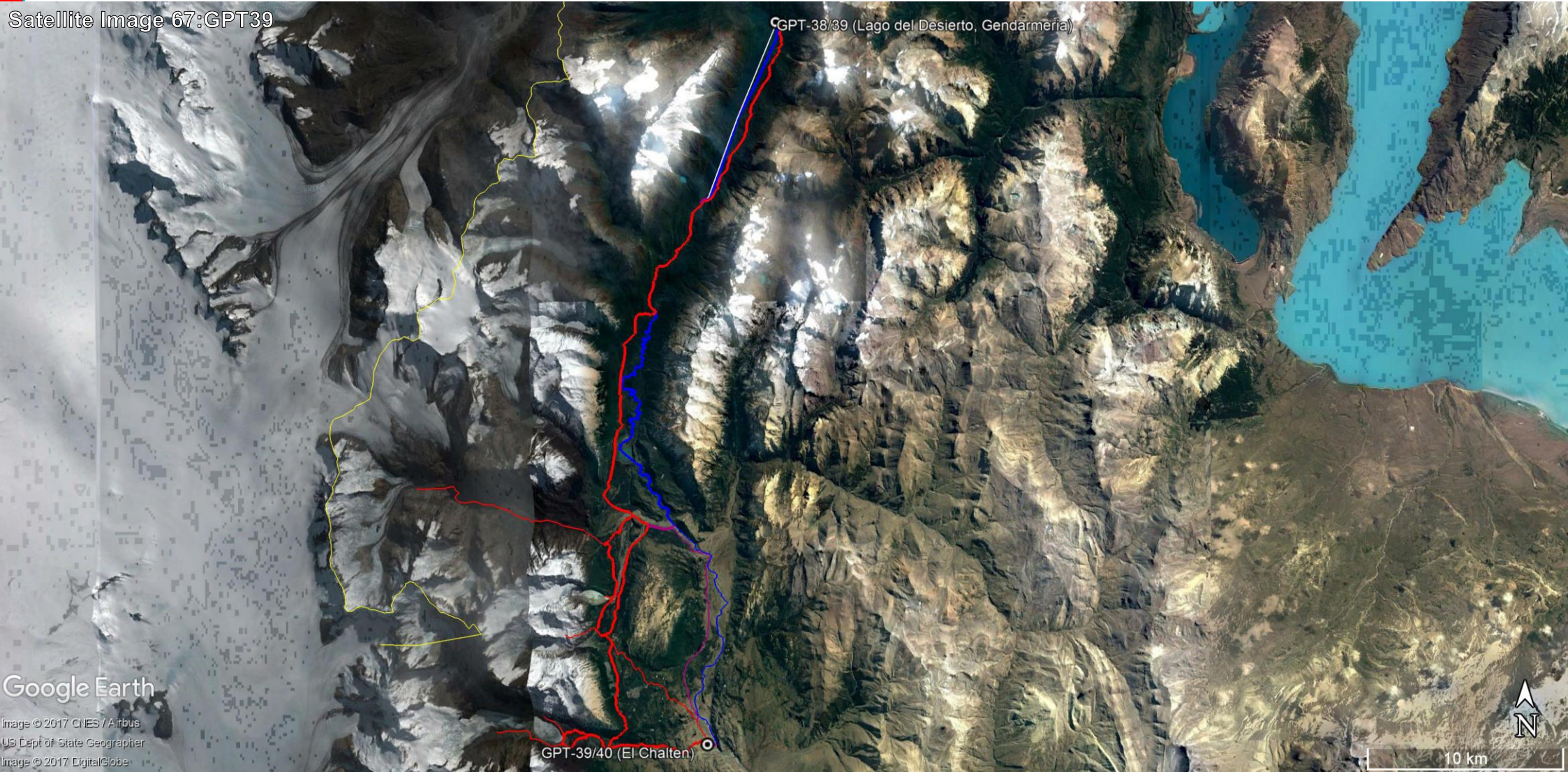
2.4.51 GPT39: Monte Fitz Roy

To be issued.

GPT39: Monte Fitz Roy		
Traversable	Nov - Apr (Conditionally: Sep, Oct, May)	
Packraft	Very Useful (28.7 km 28.7 % on Water)	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	4/5	5/5
Difficulty	2/5	4/5
Distance	58.7 km 17 h	64.1 km 17 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	I: Zona Campo de Hielo Sur Sector Norte	
Region	Argentina: Rio Negro	
Start	Lago El Desierto, Gendarmeria	
Finish	El Chalten	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT38	Finish, GPT40	-

Table 83: GPT39 Section Summary

Satellite Image 67:GPT39



Google Earth

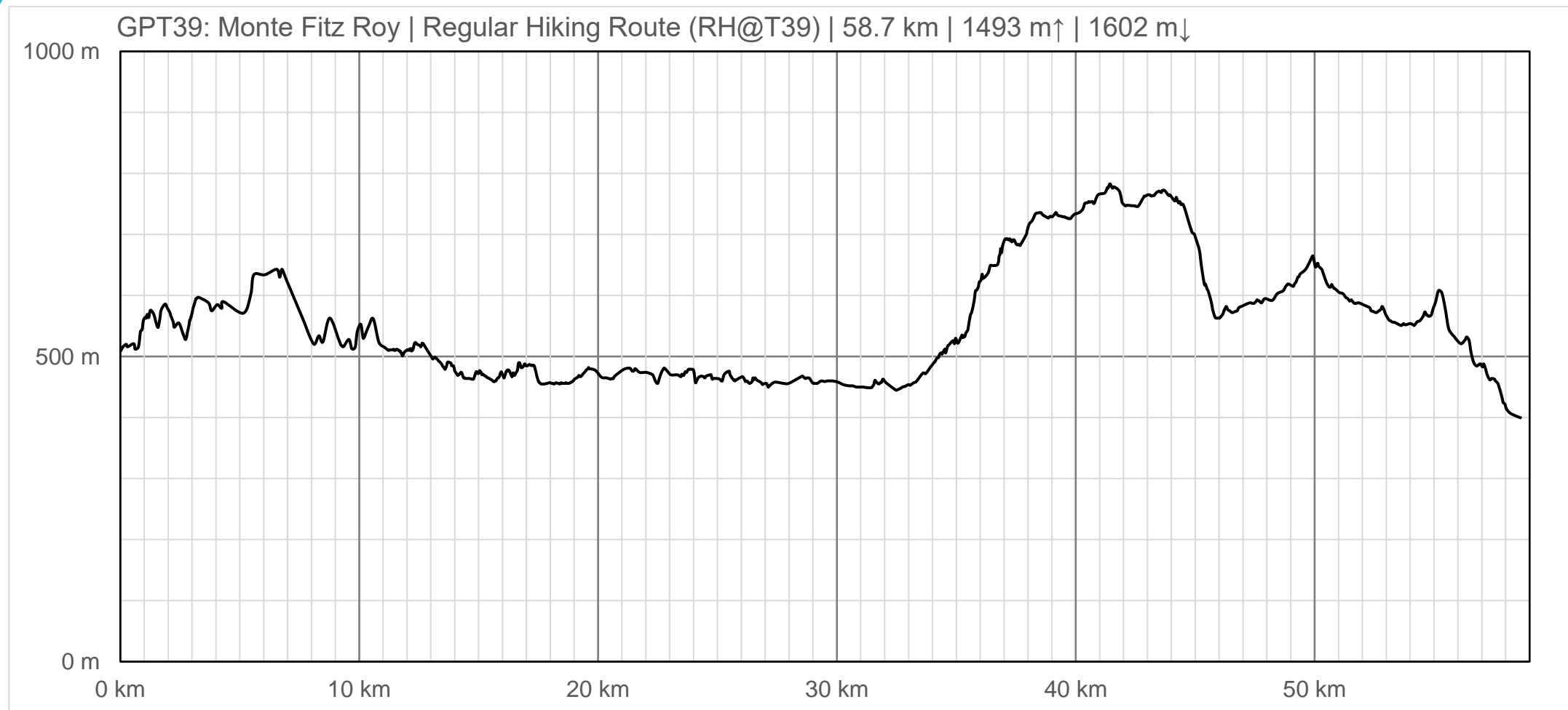
Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus
US Dept of State Geographer
Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe

GPT-39/40 (El Chalten)

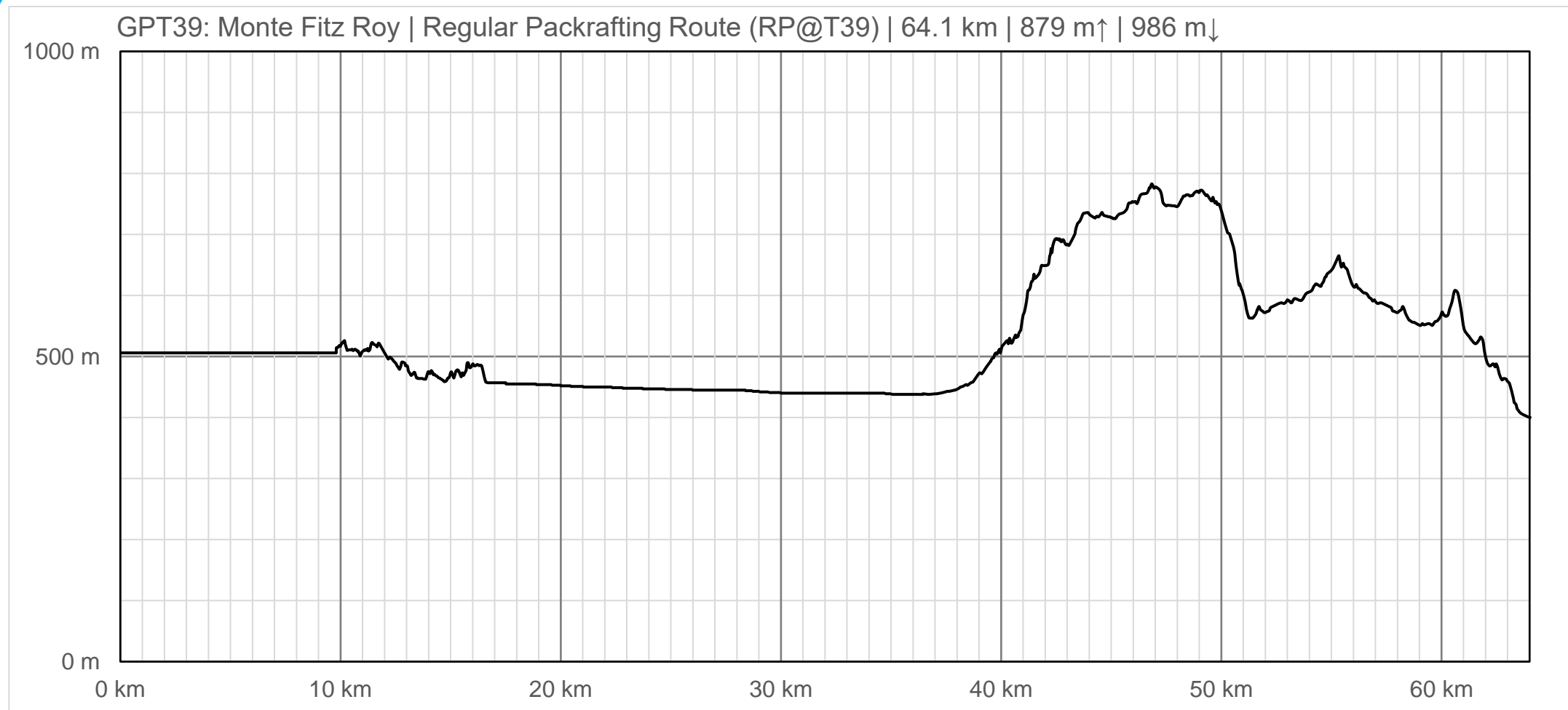
GPT-38/39 (Lago del Desierto, Gendarmería)



10 km



Elevation Profile 72: GPT39 Regular Hiking Route



Elevation Profile 73: GPT39 Regular Packrafting Route

2.4.52 GPT40: Glaciar Viedma

To be issued.

GPT40: Glaciar Viedma		
Traversable	Jan - Mar (Conditionally: Dec, Apr)	
Packraft	Only Burden	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	5/5	No Rating
Difficulty	5/5	No Rating
Distance	64.4 km 22 h	64.4 km 22 h
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	-	
Status	Published and Verified	
Zone	I: Zona Campo de Hielo Sur Sector Norte	
Region	Argentina: Rio Negro	
Start	El Chalten	
Finish	Lago Viedma, Bahia Tunel	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT39	Finish, GPT41	Skip

Table 84: GPT40 Section Summary

Satellite Image 68:GPT40

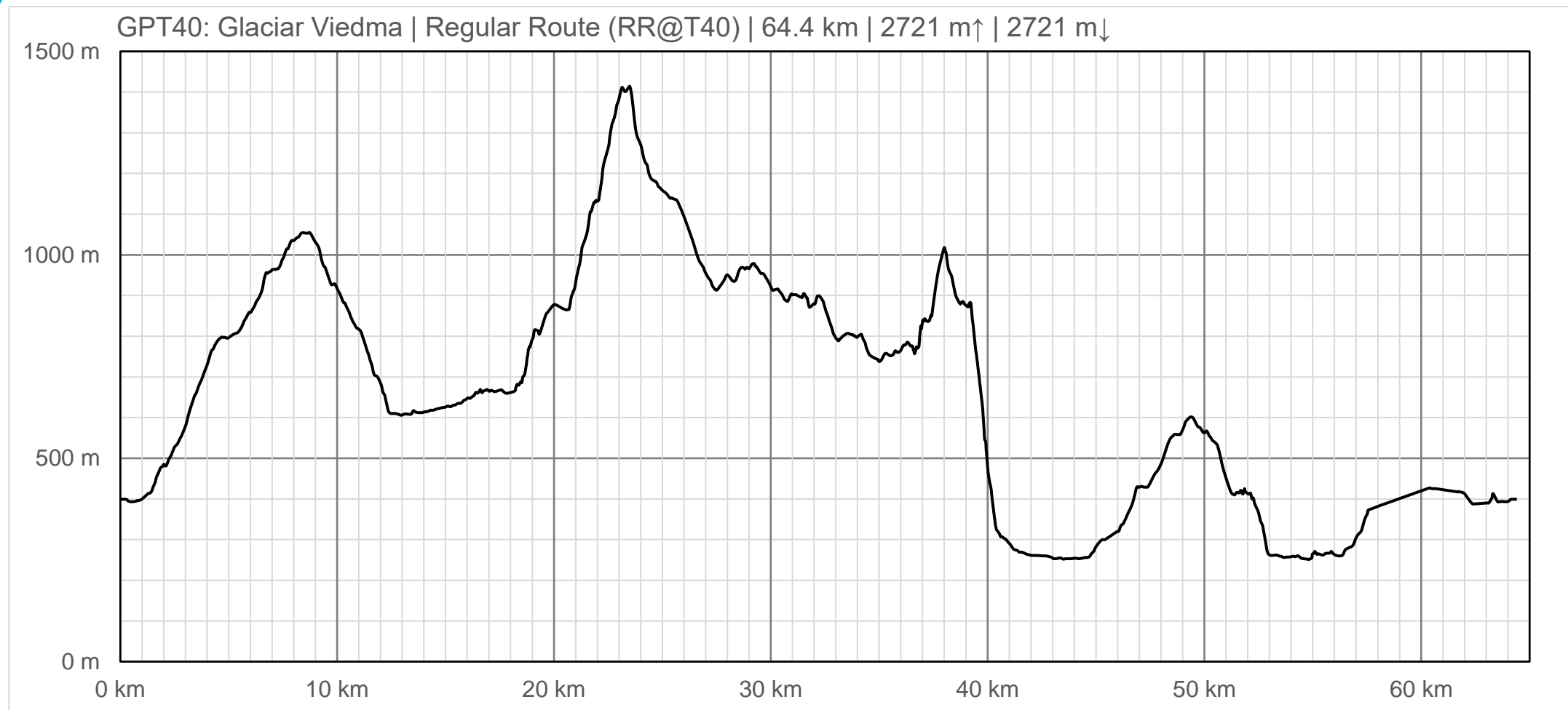


Google Earth

US Dept of State Geographer
Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe



9 km



Elevation Profile 74: GPT40 Regular Route

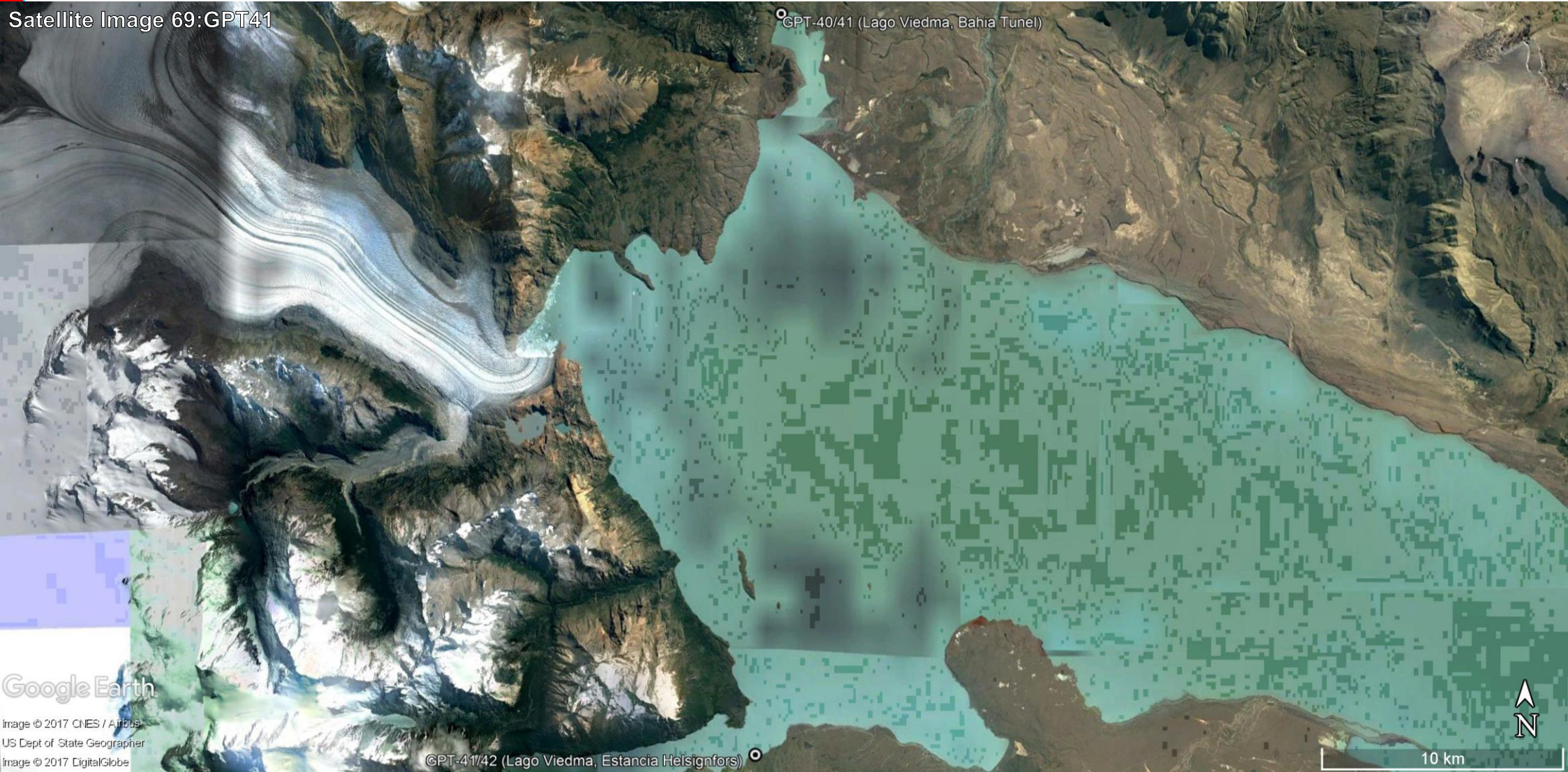
2.4.53 GPT41: Lago Viedma

To be issued.

GPT41: Lago Viedma		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	-	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	-	-
Comment	-	
Status	To be Planned	
Zone	J: Zona Campo de Hielo Sur Sector Sur	
Region	Argentina: Rio Negro	
Start	Lago Viedma, Bahia Tunel	
Finish	Lago Viedma, Estancia Helsingfors	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT40	GPT42	-

Table 85: GPT41 Section Summary

Satellite Image 69:GPT41



GPT-40/41 (Lago Viedma, Bahia Tunel)

Google Earth

Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus
US Dept of State Geographer
Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe

GPT-41/42 (Lago Viedma, Estancia Helsingfors)



10 km

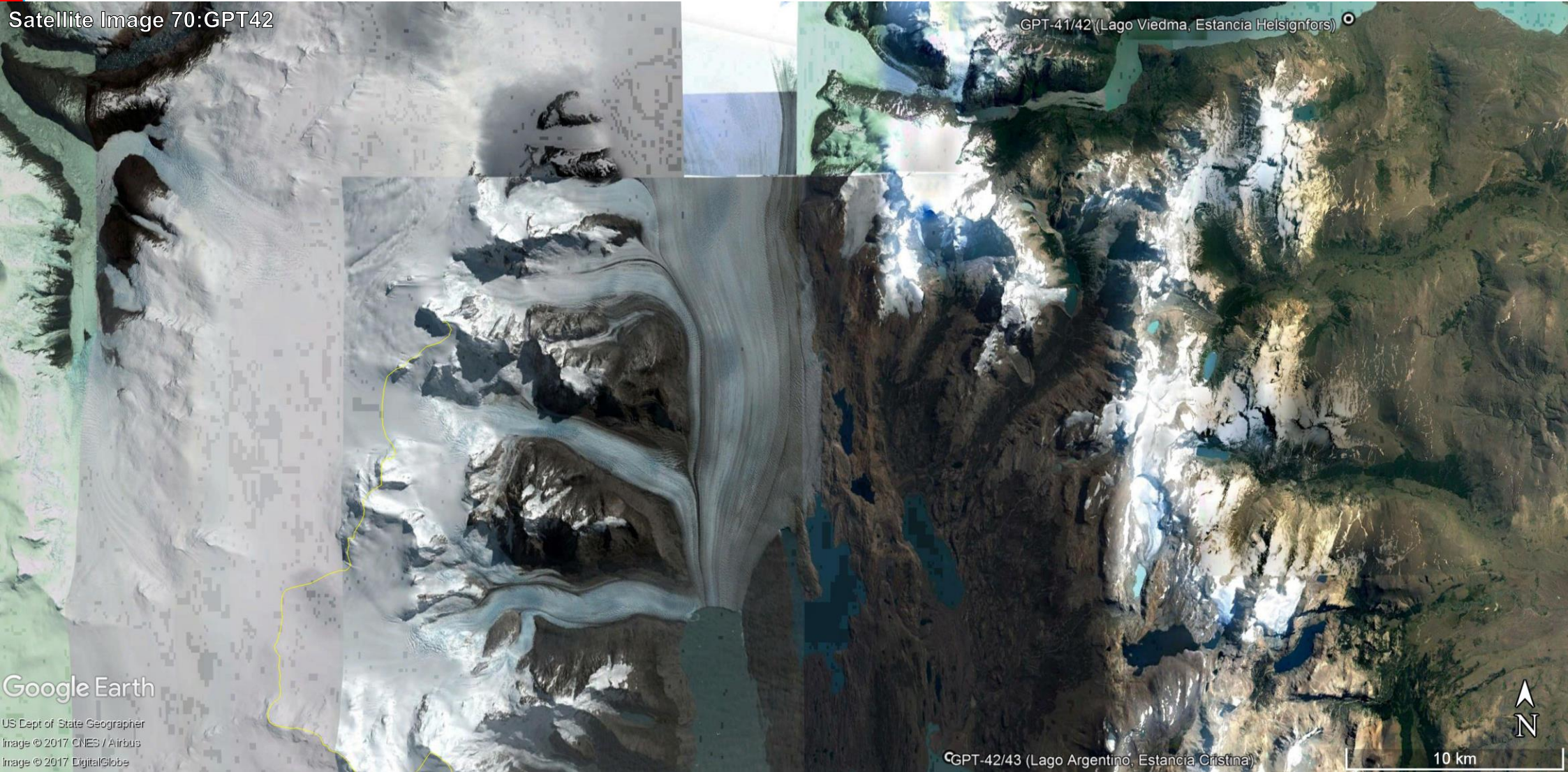
2.4.54 GPT42: Glaciar Upsala

To be issued.

GPT42: Glaciar Upsala		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	-	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	-	-
Comment	-	
Status	To be Planned	
Zone	J: Zona Campo de Hielo Sur Sector Sur	
Region	Argentina: Rio Negro	
Start	Lago Viedma, Estancia Helsingfors	
Finish	Lago Argentino, Estancia Cristina	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT41	GPT43	-

Table 86: GPT42 Section Summary

Satellite Image 70:GPT42



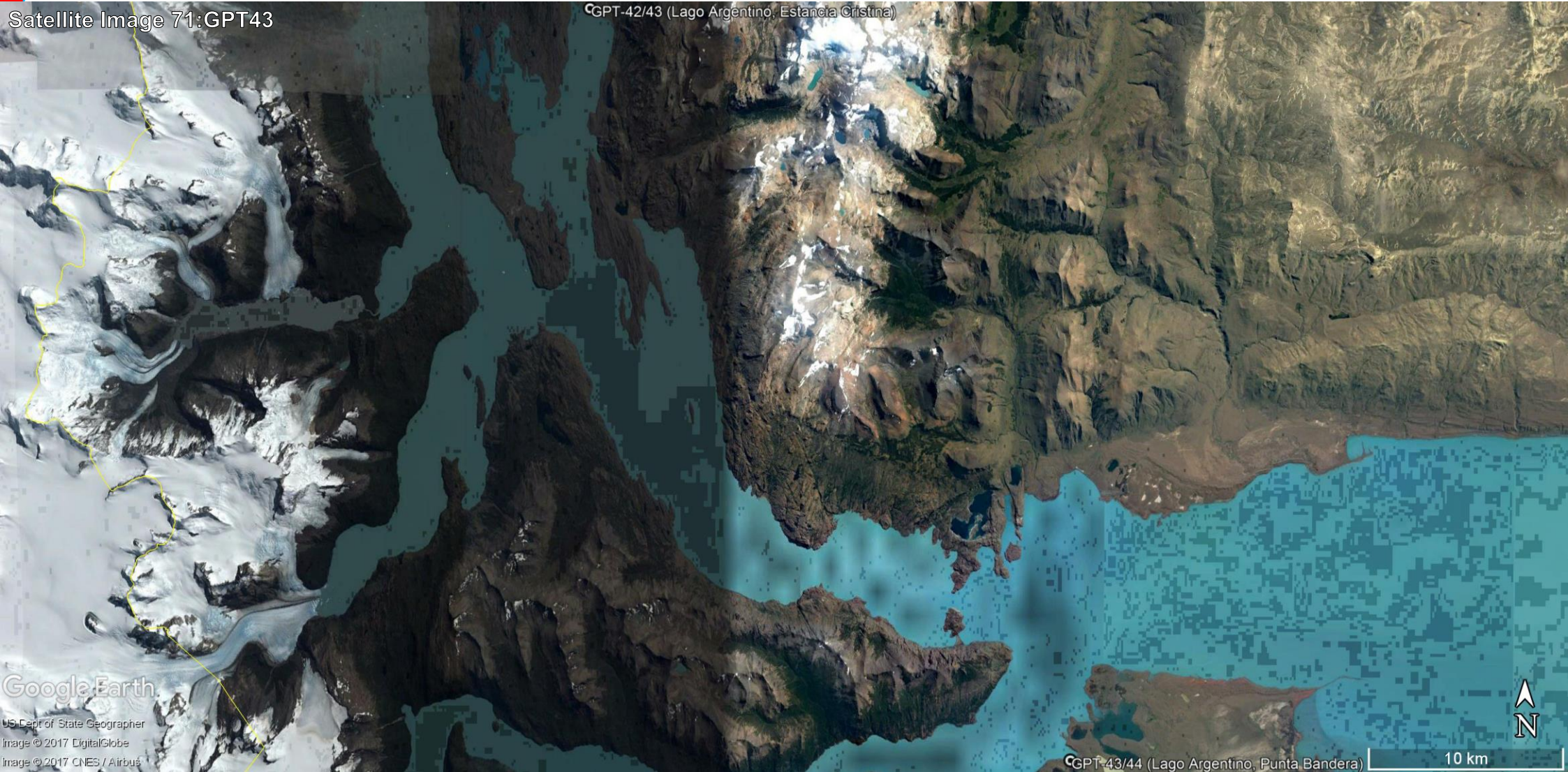
2.4.55 GPT43: Lago Argentina

To be issued.

GPT43: Lago Argentina		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	-	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	-	-
Comment	-	
Status	To be Planned	
Zone	J: Zona Campo de Hielo Sur Sector Sur	
Region	Argentina: Rio Negro	
Start	Lago Argentino, Estancia Cristina	
Finish	Lago Argentino, Puerto Banderas	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT42	GPT44	-

Table 87: GPT43 Section Summary

Satellite Image 71:GPT43



2.4.56 GPT44: Peninsula Perito Moreno

To be issued.

GPT44: Peninsula Perito Moreno		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	-	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	-	-
Comment	-	
Status	To be Planned	
Zone	J: Zona Campo de Hielo Sur Sector Sur	
Region	Argentina: Rio Negro	
Start	Lago Argentino, Puerto Banderas	
Finish	Frontera, Hito III-40 , (Frontera Lago Dickson)	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT43	GPT45	-

Table 88: GPT44 Section Summary

Satellite Image 72:GPT44



GPT-43/44 (Lago Argentino, Punta Bandera)

GPT-44/45 (Frontera, Hito III-40)

GPT-44/45 (Frontera, Lago Dickson)

Google Earth

US Dept of State Geographer
Image Landsat / Copernicus

20 km



2.4.57 GPT45: Torres Del Paine

To be issued.

GPT45: Torres Del Paine		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	-	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	-	-
Comment	-	
Status	To be Planned	
Zone	J: Zona Campo de Hielo Sur Sector Sur	
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)	
Start	Frontera, Hito III-40 , (Frontera Lago Dickson)	
Finish	Rio Serano, CONAF Park Entrance	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT44	GPT46	-

Table 89: GPT45 Section Summary

Satellite Image 73:GPT45



2.4.58 GPT46: Seno Ultima Esperanza

To be issued.

GPT46: Seno Ultima Esperanza		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	-	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	-	-
Comment	-	
Status	To be Planned	
Zone	J: Zona Campo de Hielo Sur Sector Sur	
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)	
Start	Rio Serano, CONAF Park Entrance	
Finish	Puerto Natales	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT45	GPT47	-

Table 90: GPT46 Section Summary

Satellite Image 74: GPT46

GPT-45/46 (Rio Serrano, Conaf)

Google Earth

US Dept of State Geographer
Image Landsat / Copernicus

GPT-46/47 (Puerto Natales)

20 km



2.4.59 GPT47: Seno Skyring

To be issued.

GPT47: Seno Skyring		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	-	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	-	-
Comment	-	
Status	To be Planned	
Zone	K: Zona Magallanes	
Region	Chile: Magallanes (XII)	
Start	Puerto Natales	
Finish	Rio Verde	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT46	GPT48	-

Table 91: GPT47 Section Summary

Satellite Image 75:GPT47



Google Earth

US Dept of State Geographer
Image Landsat / Copernicus

GPT-47/48 (Rio Verde)

50 km



2.4.60 GPT48: Seno Otway

To be issued.

GPT48: Seno Otway		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	-	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	-	-
Comment	-	
Status	To be Planned	
Zone	K: Zona Magallanes	
Region	Chile: Magallanes (XII)	
Start	Rio Verde	
Finish	Punta Arenas	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT47	GPT49	-

Table 92: GPT48 Section Summary

Satellite Image 76:GPT48



2.4.61 GPT49: Penunsila Brunswick

To be issued.

GPT49: Penunsila Brunswick		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	-	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	-	-
Comment	-	
Status	To be Planned	
Zone	K: Zona Magallanes	
Region	Chile: Magallanes (XII)	
Start	Punta Arenas	
Finish	Fuerte Bulnes	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT48	GPT50	-

Table 93: GPT49 Section Summary

Satellite Image 77:GPT49



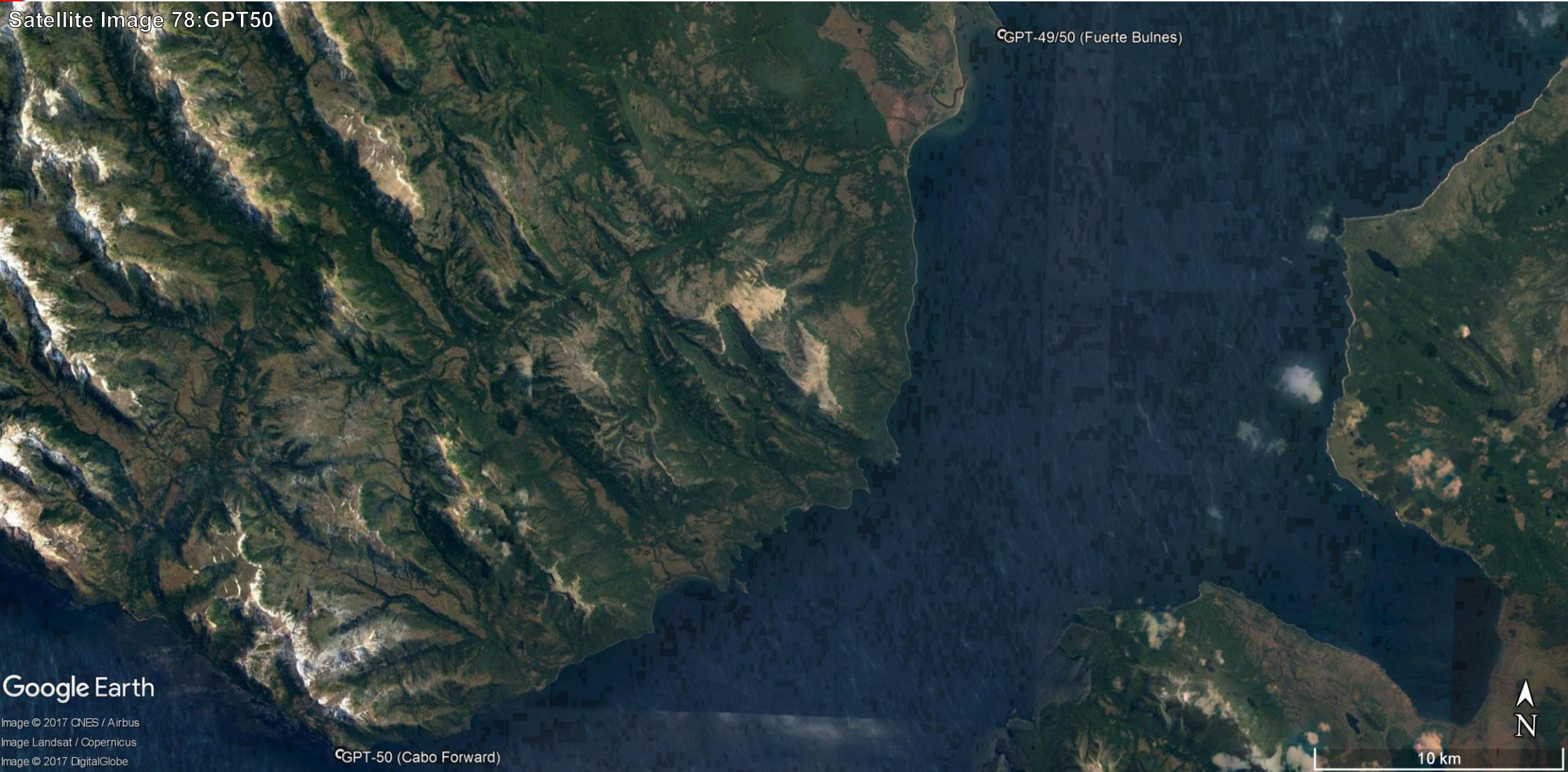
2.4.62 GPT50: Cabo Forward

To be issued.

GPT50: Cabo Forward		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	-	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	-	-
Comment	-	
Status	To be Planned	
Zone	K: Zona Magallanes	
Region	Chile: Magallanes (XII)	
Start	Fuerte Bulnes	
Finish	Cabo Forward	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT49	Finish	-

Table 94: GPT50 Section Summary

Satellite Image 78:GPT50



Google Earth

Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe

GPT-50 (Cabo Forward)

GPT-49/50 (Fuerte Bulnes)



10 km

2.4.63 GPT60: Estrecho de Magellanes

To be issued.

GPT60: Estrecho de Magellanes		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	-	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	-	-
Comment	-	
Status	In Consideration	
Zone	L: Zona Tierra del Fuego	
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)	
Start	Punta Arenas	
Finish	Porvenir	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
-	-	-

Table 95: GPT60 Section Summary

2.4.64 GPT60+X: Tierra del Fuego

To be issued.

GPT60+X: Tierra del Fuego		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	-	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	-	-
Comment	-	
Status	In Consideration	
Zone	L: Zona Tierra del Fuego	
Region	Chile & Argentina: Magellanes (XII) & Rio Negro	
Start	Porvenir	
Finish	Ushuaia , (Yendegaia)	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
-	-	-

Table 96: GPT60+X Section Summary

Satellite Image 79:GPT60+X



Google Earth

US Dept of State Geographer

Image Landsat / Copernicus

Data LDEO-Columbia, NSF, NOAA

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO



N

100 km

2.4.65 GPT60+Y: Canal Beagle

To be issued.

GPT60+Y: Canal Beagle		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	-	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	-	-
Comment	-	
Status	In Consideration	
Zone	L: Zona Tierra del Fuego	
Region	Argentina & Chile: Rio Negro & Magellanes (XII)	
Start	Ushuaia , (Yendegaia)	
Finish	Puerto Williams	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
-	-	-

Table 97: GPT60+X Section Summary

2.4.66 GPT60+Z: Isla Navarino

To be issued.

GPT60+Z: Isla Navarino		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	-	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	-	-
Comment	-	
Status	In Consideration	
Zone	L: Zona Tierra del Fuego	
Region	Chile: Magellanes (XII)	
Start	Puerto Williams	
Finish	Puerto Williams	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
-	-	-

Table 98: GPT60+X Section Summary

2.4.67 GPT70P: Alto Rio Futaleufú

To be issued.

GPT70P: Alto Rio Futaleufú		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	Very Useful	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	Both ←→	Both ←→
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not recommended since no attractive continuation	
Status	Published, To be Verified	
Zone	M: Zona Yelcho	
Region	Argentina & Chile: Chubut & Los Lagos (X)	
Start	Río Futalaufú	
Finish	Villa Futaleufú	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT25H or GPT25P	GPT71P, GPT72P	-

Table 99: GPT70P Section Summary

Satellite Image 80:GPT70P



Google Earth

US Dept of State Geographer
Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus
Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe

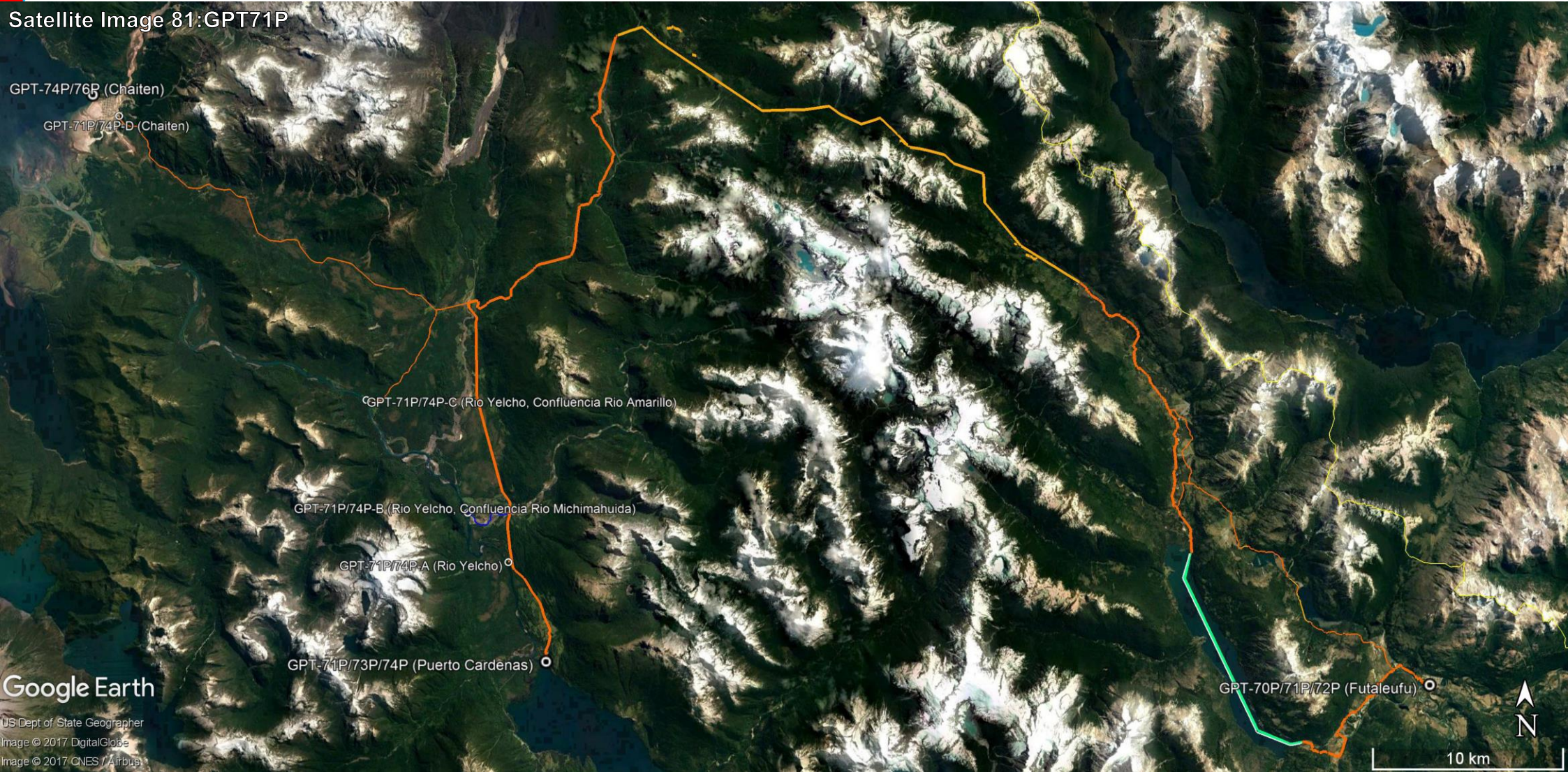
2.4.68 GPT71P: Espolón

To be issued.

GPT71P: Espolón		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	Useful	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	Both ←→	Both ←→
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not recommended since no attractive continuation	
Status	Published, To be Verified	
Zone	M: Zona Yelcho	
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)	
Start	Villa Futaleufú	
Finish	Puerto Cárdenas	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT70P	GPT74P, GPT73P	GPT72P

Table 100: GPT71P Section Summary

Satellite Image 81:GPT71P



Google Earth

US Dept of State Geographer
Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe
Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus

2.4.69 GPT72P: Bajo Rio Futaleufú

To be issued.

GPT72P: Bajo Rio Futaleufú		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	Useful	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not recommended since no attractive continuation	
Status	Published, To be Verified	
Zone	M: Zona Yelcho	
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)	
Start	Villa Futaleufú	
Finish	Lago Yelcho, Brazo Sur, (El Porfiado)	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT70P	GPT27P, GPT73P	GPT71P

Table 101: GPT72P Section Summary

Satellite Image 82: GPT72P

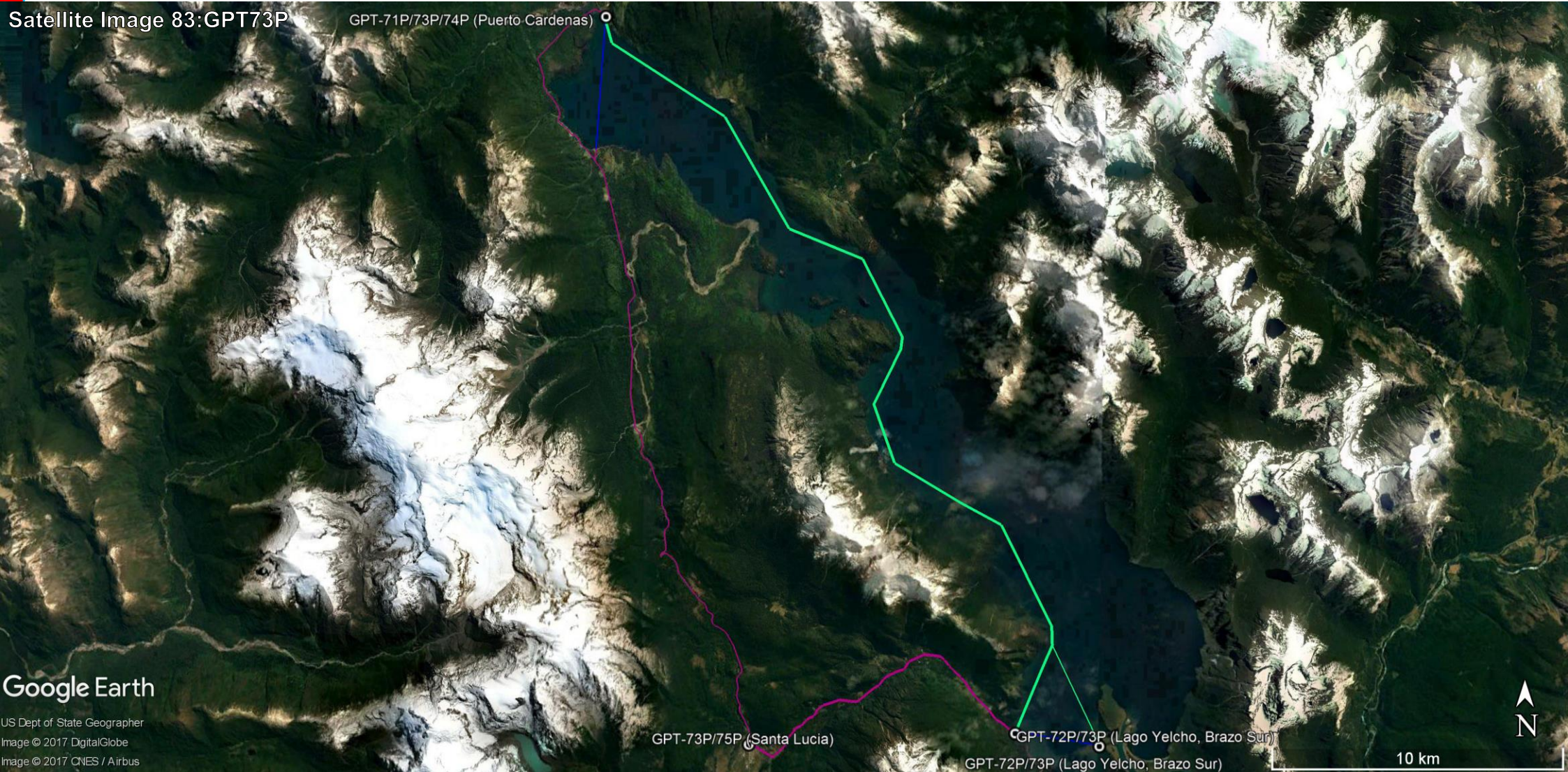


2.4.70 GPT73P: Lago Yelcho

To be issued.

GPT73P: Lago Yelcho		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	Required	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	None	Both ↓↑
Comment	Hiking: Packraft required Packrafting: ↓ Recommended travel direction due to predominant wind direction	
Status	Published, To be Verified BY EXPERTS ONLY	
Zone	M: Zona Yelcho	
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)	
Start	Puerto Cárdenas	
Finish	Lago Yelcho, Brazo Sur, (Santa Lucía)	
Previous Section		Next Section
GPT71P, GPT72P		GPT72P, GPT74P, GPT75P
		Alternative Section
		-

Table 102: GPT73P Section Summary



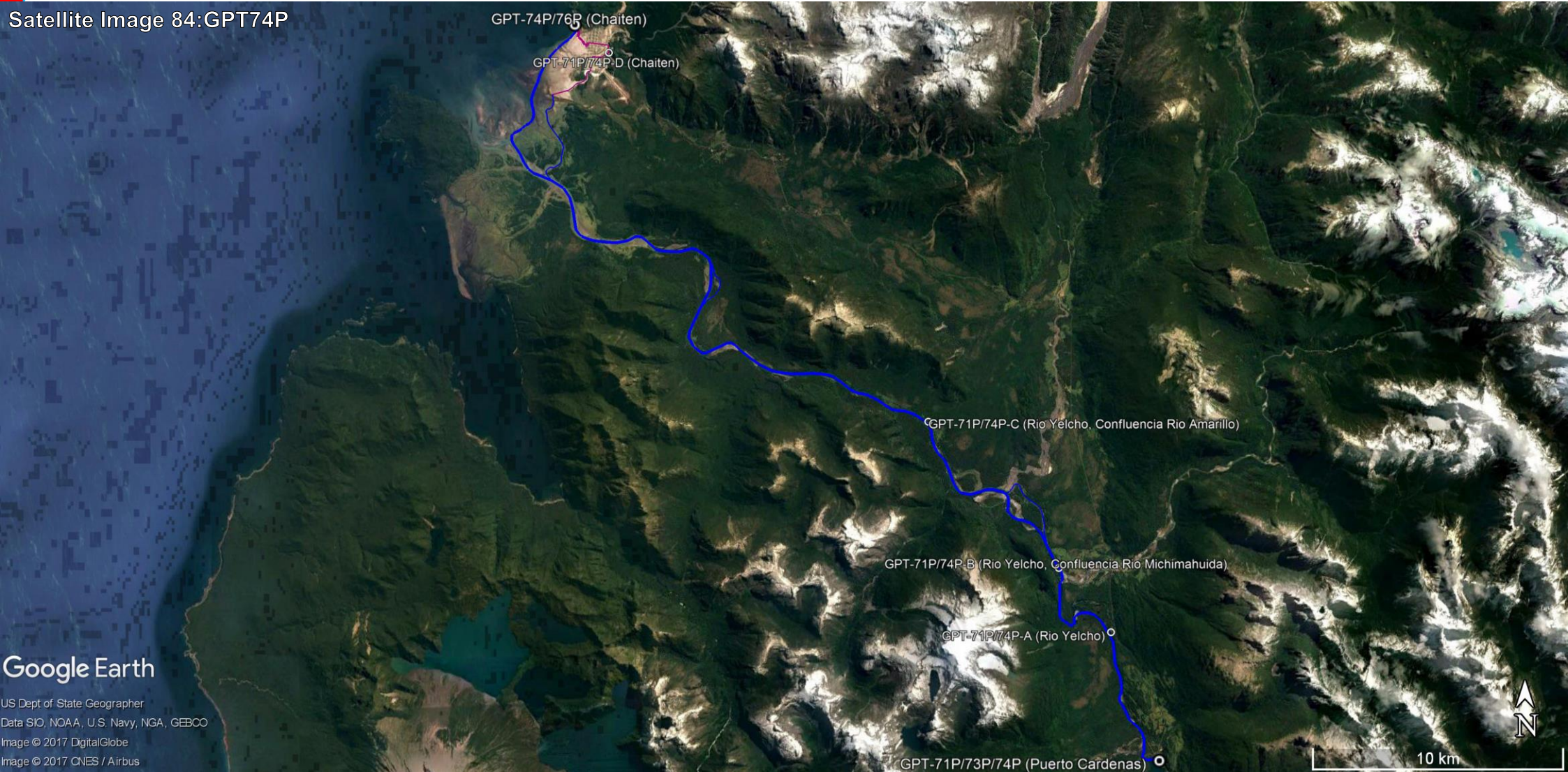
2.4.71 GPT74P: Río Yelcho

To be issued.

GPT74P: Río Yelcho		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	Required	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	None	Only ←
Comment	Hiking: Packraft required	
Status	Published, To be Verified	
Zone	M: Zona Yelcho	
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)	
Start	Puerto Cárdenas	
Finish	Chaitén	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT71P, GPT73P	GPT76P	-

Table 103: GPT74P Section Summary

Satellite Image 84:GPT74P



Google Earth

US Dept of State Geographer
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe
Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus

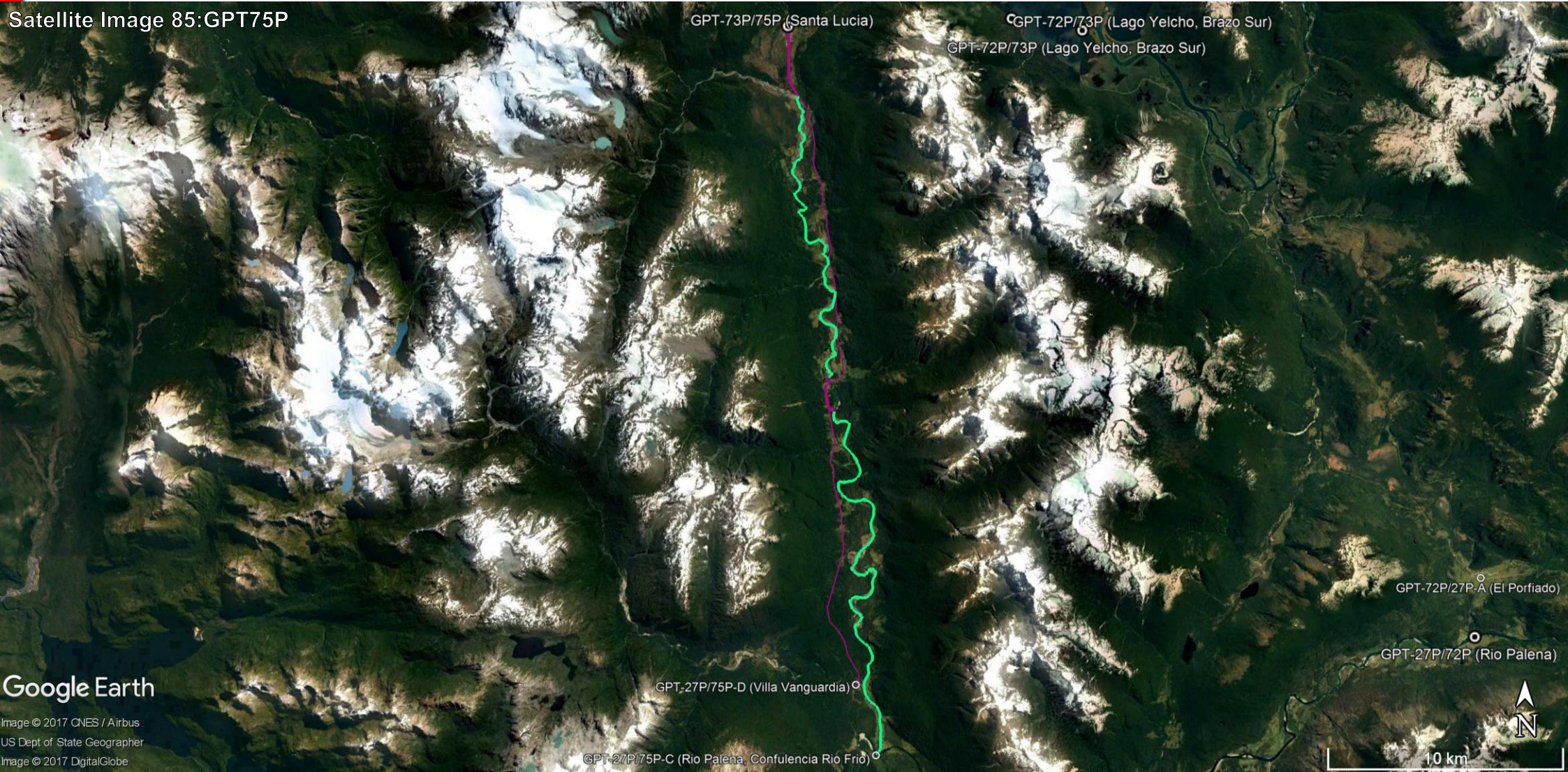
2.4.72 GPT75P: Río Frio

To be issued.

GPT75P: Río Frio		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	Required	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	Both ↓↑	Both ↓↑
Comment	Hiking: Hiking not recommended since no attractive continuation Packrafting: ↓ More packraft use ↑ Road walking only	
Status	Published and Verified, To be Recorded by GPS	
Zone	M: Zona Yelcho	
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)	
Start	Santa Lucía	
Finish	Río Palena, Confluencia Río Frio	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT73P	GPT27P	GPT72P

Table 104: GPT75P Section Summary

Satellite Image 85:GPT75P



Google Earth

Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus
US Dept of State Geographer
Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe

2.4.73 GPT76P: Chaitén

To be issued.

GPT76P: Chaitén		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	Required	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	None	Both ↓↑
Comment	Hiking: Packraft required	
Status	Published, To be Verified BY EXPERTS ONLY	
Zone	N: Zona Costa	
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)	
Start	Chaitén	
Finish	Caleta Gonzalo	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT74P	GPT77P	-

Table 105: GPT76P Section Summary

Satellite Image 86:GPT76P



Google Earth

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe
US Dept of State Geographer
Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus



20 km

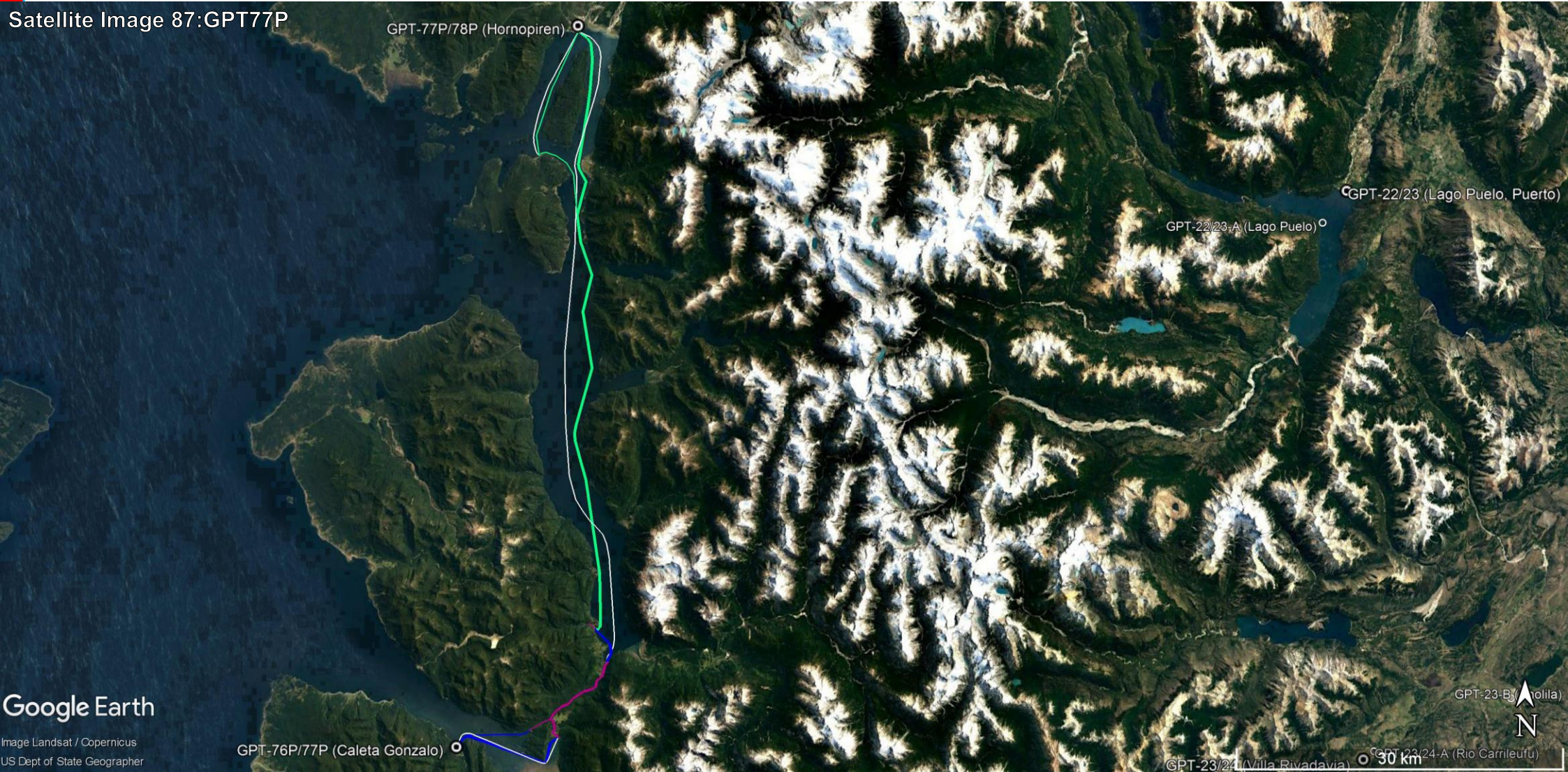
2.4.74 GPT77P: Hornopirén

To be issued.

GPT77P: Hornopirén		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	Required	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	None	Both ↓↑
Comment	Hiking: Packraft required	
Status	Published, To be Verified BY EXPERTS ONLY	
Zone	N: Zona Costa	
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)	
Start	Caleta Gonzalo	
Finish	Hornopirén	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT76P	GPT78P	-

Table 106: GPT77P Section Summary

Satellite Image 87:GPT77P



2.4.75 GPT78P: Lago Pinto Concha

To be issued.

GPT78P: Lago Pinto Concha		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	Required	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	None	Both ↓↑
Comment	Hiking: Packraft required	
Status	Published, To be Verified BY EXPERTS ONLY	
Zone	N: Zona Costa	
Region	Chile: Los Lagos (X)	
Start	Hornopirén	
Finish	Confluencia Río Traidor-Río Palena	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
GPT77P	GPT22	-

Table 107: GPT78P Section Summary

Satellite Image 88:GPT78P



GPT-77P/78P (Hornopiren) ○

Google Earth

Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe

Image © 2017 CNES / Airbus

GPT-22/78P (Rio Traidor)



10 km

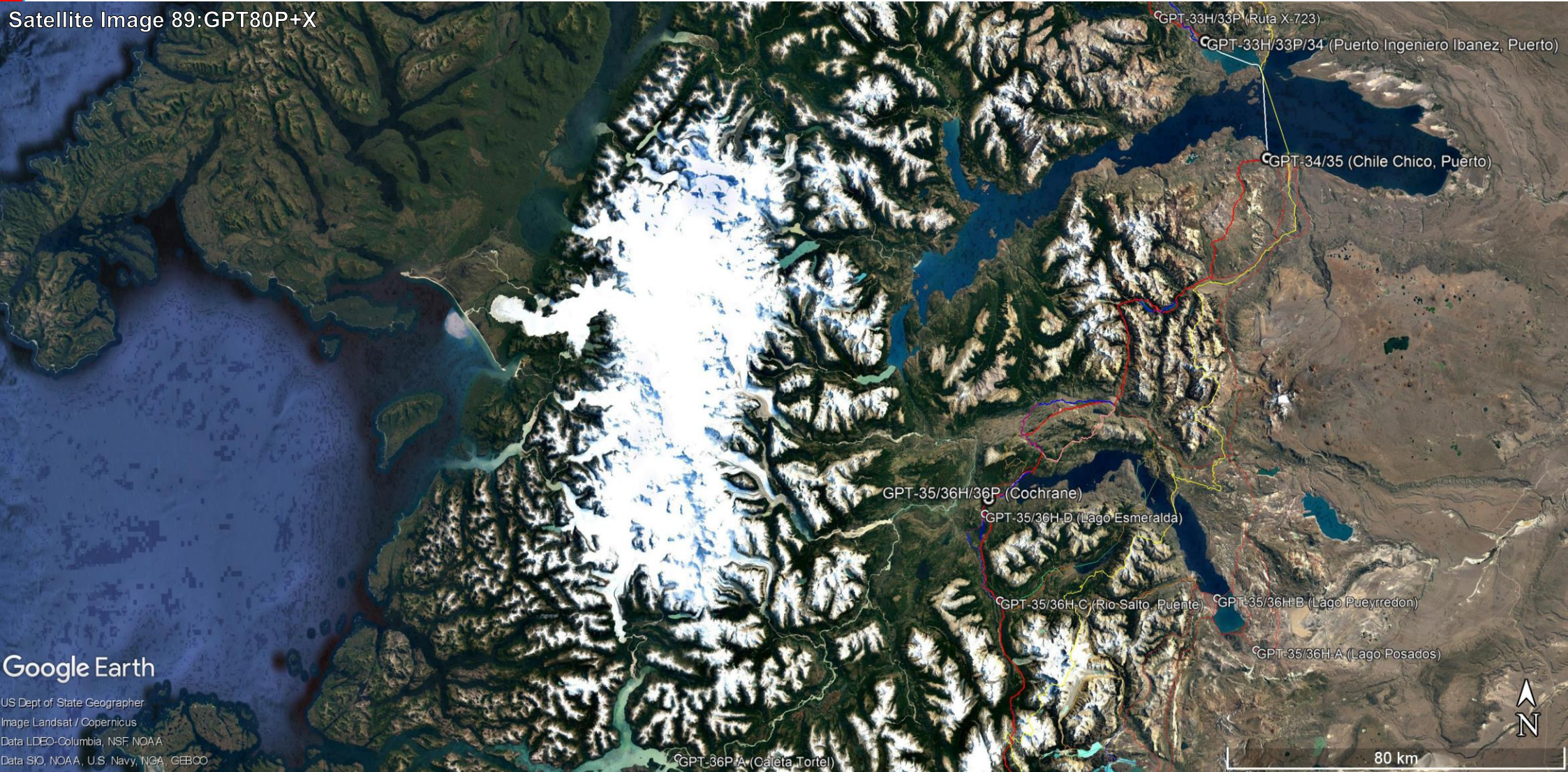
2.4.76 GPT80P+X: Zona Campo de Hielo Norte Sector Monte

To be issued.

GPT80P+X: Zona Campo de Hielo Norte Sector Monte		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	-	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	-	-
Comment	-	
Status	In Consideration	
Zone	O: Zona Campo de Hielo Norte Sector Monte	
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)	
Start	-	
Finish	-	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
-	-	-

Table 108: GPT80P+X Section Summary

Satellite Image 89:GPT80P+X



Google Earth

US Dept of State Geographer
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Data LDEO-Columbia, NSF, NOAA
Data SJO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, INGA, GEBCO

2.4.77 GPT90P+X: Zona Campo de Hielo Norte Sector Mar

To be issued.

GPT90P+X: Zona Campo de Hielo Norte Sector Mar		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	-	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	-	-
Comment	-	
Status	In Consideration	
Zone	P: Zona Campo de Hielo Norte Sector Mar	
Region	Chile: Aysén (XI)	
Start	-	
Finish	-	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
-	-	-

Table 109: GPT90P+X Section Summary

2.4.78 HA01+X: Zona Huella Andina

To be issued.

HA01+X: Zona Huella Andina		
Traversable	-	
Packraft	-	
	Hiking	Packrafting
Attraction	No Rating	No Rating
Difficulty	No Rating	No Rating
Distance	-	-
Direction	-	-
Comment	-	
Status	Published and verified by others. Currently unmaintained by Argentine government. Additional connections with GPT to be planned.	
Zone	Q: Zona Huella Andina	
Region	Argentina: Neuquen, Rio Negro, Chubut &	
Start	-	
Finish	-	
Previous Section	Next Section	Alternative Section
-	-	-

Table 110: HA01+X Section Summary

3 Appendix and Indices

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3.1 GPS Navigation Devices and Other Gadgets

The competent use of a GPS device is essential on the GPT as outlined in chapter [1.10.8 Maps and Navigation on page 136](#).

Approximately 24 active GPS satellites orbit the earth roughly 20'000 km above ground. These GPS satellites transmit radio signals that are used by GPS devices to calculate the current position. The senders in the satellites are quite weak; only 27 Watt are emitted by each satellite. At the user's receiver only one tenth of a million-billionth of a watt (100 attowatts) arrive. This makes the signal analysis and position calculation a slow and power-consuming process especially when starting up the GPS device.

When the GPS device is activated it listens for these weak GPS signals. When receiving and recognizing the signals of at least 4 GPS satellites it calculates the current location. As more satellites are in range as more accurate the calculated location gets. After starting the GPS device, it can take several minutes till the current location is precisely displayed. While moving in open terrain with the GPS in standby the device can more easily track the location changes. Therefore, we normally do not switch off the GPS while moving as this facilitates a frequent and quick verification of the current position. We only switch the GPS off when taking a break and between pitching the tent and leaving in the morning to minimize power consumption.

Clouds, rain, vegetation and mountains between the GPS satellites and the GPS receiver damp the GPS signal making positioning less accurate, slower and increase the power consumption. In buildings the GPS signal is normally completely lost.

If you never navigated with a GPS permit yourself some playtime at home before you rely on it in the outback. Following a track by GPS sounds easier than it actually is in confusing terrain. In the following I provide suggestions how to setup your GPS to correctly record your tracks, maximize battery life and facilitate its use on the trail.

3.1.1 Garmin Handheld GPS Device Setup

I recommend a Garmin handheld GPS device as the primary navigation device. For reasons see chapter [1.10.8 Maps and Navigation on page 136](#).

3.1.1.1 Recording of Tracks

When the GPS device is switched on and remains in standby it can record your track while moving. The additional power consumption of recording is insignificant as this feature only writes a few bytes every few seconds into the memory. Therefore recording tracks does not shorten the battery life.

To setup recording go to the **Main Menu**, select **Setup**, and then **Tracks**.

Recording your tracks and sharing them with the author is essential to keep the GPT route network updated. Therefore, this became part of the [Terms and Conditions for Using the Hiker's Manual and the Track Files](#).

The tracks are recorded in the GPX file format. To view these tracks in Google Earth you must convert them into the KML or KMZ format. For this conversion use either Basecamp or one of the many free online tools. Several Garmin GPS devices store the recorded GMX files in the internal memory in the folders:

- Garmin/GPX/Archive
- Garmin/GPX/Current



Picture 107 and 108: Setup of Track Recording on a Garmin eTrex30x

My **suggested track recording options** are:

- **Record, Show On Map.** This means that all your movements get saved and displayed on the GPS screen. This is very useful when backtracking i.e. after losing the trail or to simply review at the end of the day what you hiked and paddled.
- The Record Method **Auto** and the Recording Interval **Normal** generates a reasonable precise track without too many points.
- Auto Archive **Daily** means that one track file is created for each day. This facilitates than handling and the analysis of tracks.
- Choose a Colour that is easily distinguishable from other tracks and map features. I will try yellow next season.

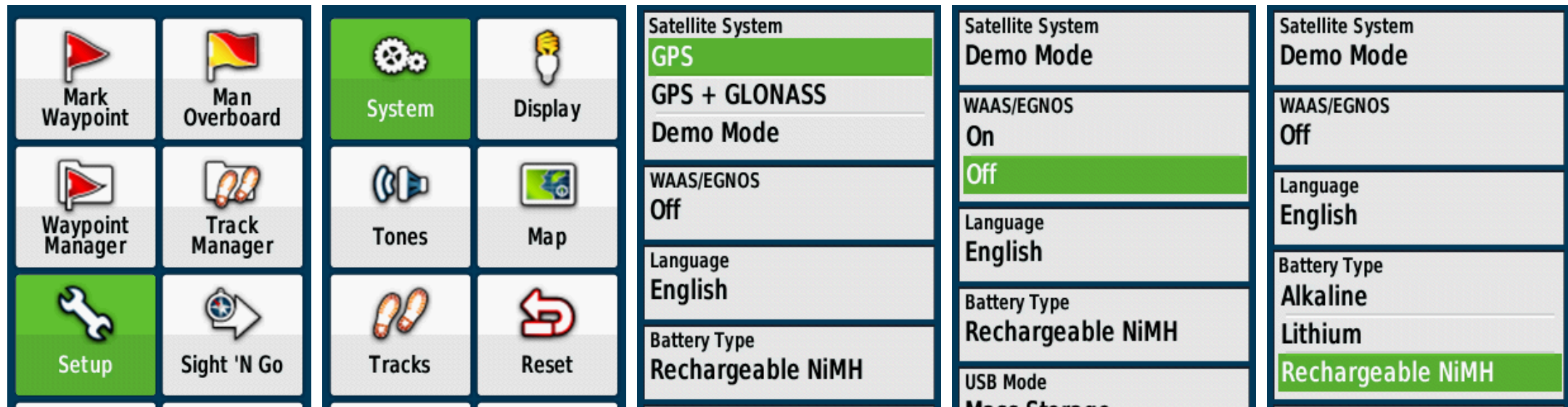
Track Log Record, Show On Map	Track Log Record, Show On Map	Track Log Record, Show On Map	Track Log Record, Show On Map	Track Log Record, Show On Map
Record Method Auto	Record Method Auto	Record Method Auto	Record Method Auto	Record Method Auto
Recording Interval Normal	Recording Interval Normal	Recording Interval Normal	Recording Interval Normal	Recording Interval Normal
Auto Archive Daily	Auto Archive Daily	Auto Archive Daily	Auto Archive Daily	Auto Archive Daily
Color _____	Color _____	Color _____	Color _____	Color _____

Pictures 109, 110, 111, 112 and 113: Suggested Track Recording Options for a Garmin eTrex30x

3.1.1.2 Maximizing Battery Life

To maximize the battery life I suggest:

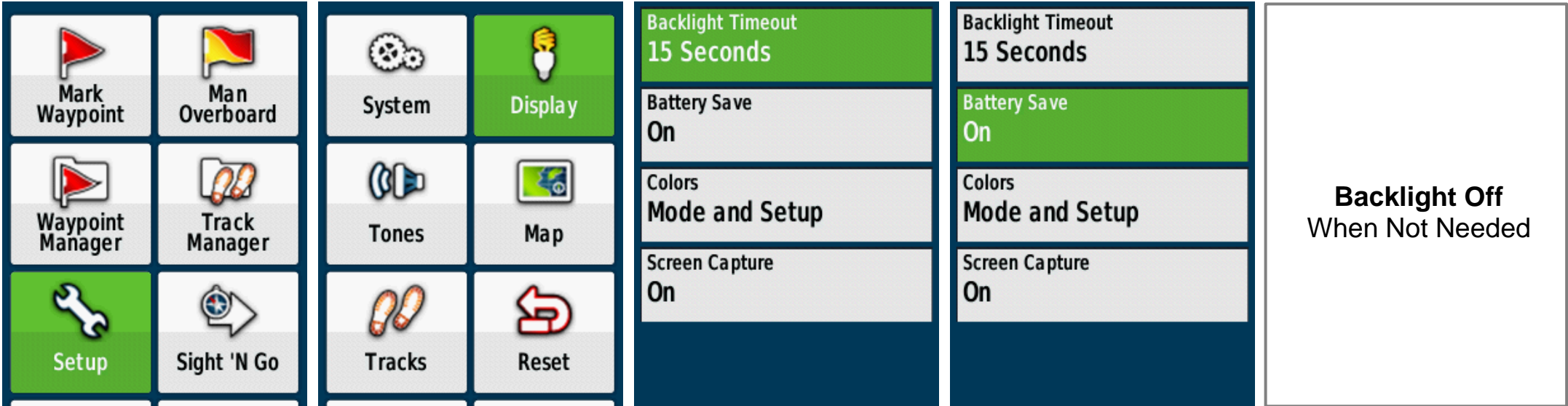
- Use the **GPS** Satellite System only and not the Russian GLONASS in addition as this increases the standby power consumption by 30% without much benefit for hiking (GPS is sufficiently accurate). Also WAAS/EGNOS should be **Off**.
- Select the actually used Battery Type (Alkaline, Lithium or Rechargeable NiMH) otherwise the display of the remaining power is incorrect. Note that the display of the remaining battery capacity is not particular reliable. It is not unusual that the display indicates for two days full batteries and then goes in one or two hours from full to empty.



Pictures 114, 115, 116, 117 and 118: Suggested System Setup to maximize battery life on a Garmin eTrex30x

In addition, the following display setup should be used to minimize power consumption:

- Backlight Timeout **15 Seconds** switches backlight automatically off.
- Battery Save **On** causes the display to disappear after the Backlight Timeout setting. By pushing any button the display is reactivated. This option prolongs the battery life by about 40%.
- The **Backlight** should remain **Off** whenever not needed i.e. during daytime. On several Garmin devices the backlight is controlled by briefly hitting the power button several times. This can accidentally activate the backlight when not needed. Therefore, make sure that backlight is not accidentally switched on during daytime.



Pictures 119, 120, 121 and 122: Suggested Display Setup to maximize battery life on a Garmin eTrex30x

To better understand and optimize power consumption, I measured the actual power consumption of a Garmin eTrex30x under different conditions. The above suggested settings are partly based on these measurements.

Measured Power Consumption				
Functions	Percent	Power in mW	Current in mA	Theoretical Running Time
GPS Standby in open terrain with clear view to sky	100%	125 mW	50 mA	(40 h)
GPS Standby without clear view to sky i.e. inside building	140%	175 mW	70 mA	(28 h)
GPS Standby + Recording	100%	125 mW	50 mA	(40 h)
GPS Standby + GLONASS	130%	163 mW	65 mA	(30 h)
GPS Standby + Recording + Screen Active	140%	175 mW	70 mA	(28 h)
GPS Standby + Recording + Screen Active + Zooming/Moving	250%	313 mW	125 mA	(16 h)
GPS Standby + Recording + Screen Active + 50% Backlight	200%	250 mW	100 mA	(20 h)
GPS Standby + Recording + Screen Active + 100% Backlight	380%	475 mW	190 mA	(10 h)
Power consumption of a Garmin eTrex30x (should be nearly identical for eTrex20x devices). Running time calculated for fully charged NiMH batteries with a 2000 mA capacity and an average voltage of 1.25 V. Low Power Alarm: When voltage drops below 1.2 V GPS Off: When voltage drops below 1.1 V				

Table 111: Power consumption of GPS handheld device

I do not fully trust the theoretical running time, but the measured power consumption provides a good estimate how different features affect the battery life. For the actual battery running time see the next table.

For planning purposes, I suggest calculating with the following typical battery life when using a Garmin eTrex30x or a similar device. These values are based on actual trail experience.

Battery Type	Typical Battery Life ⁴²	Nominal Voltage	Weight	Comment
Rechargeable Battery Types				
NiMH	2 to 3 days	1.2 V	2 x 25 g	Lowest Long-Term-Cost. Suitable for recharging i.e. when carrying a solar panel or recharging in towns.
Not Rechargeable Battery Types				
Alkaline	3 to 4 days	1.5 V	2 x 23 g	Best Weight-Cost-Ratio especially when not carrying a solar panel. Not suitable for recharging.
Lithium	4 to 5 days	1.5 V	2 x 15 g	Luxury Low-Weight-Option or emergency spares. Do not recharge as these batteries may explode.
Not Recommended Battery Types				
Lithium-Ion	-	3.7 V	-	DO NOT USE! AA sized 14500 Li-Ion batteries have a voltage of 3.7 V what may permanently damage the GPS.
Zinc-Carbon	-	1.5 V	-	DO NOT USE! Zin-Carbon batteries have a much lower capacity, are not cold-resistant and may leak.

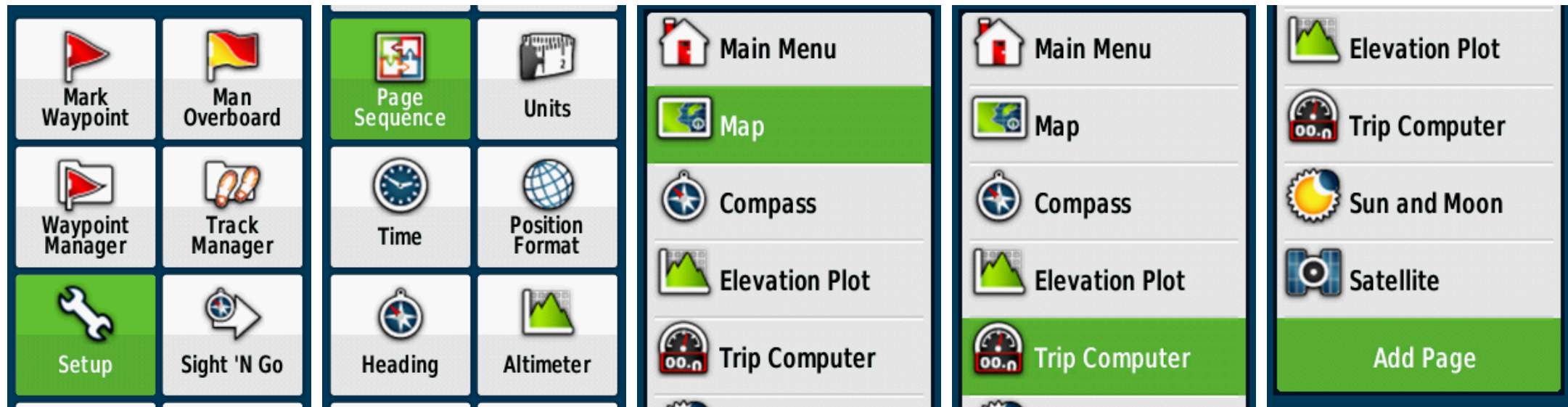
Table 112: Typical battery life with GPS handheld device

⁴² The typical battery life is based on the experience of a few hikers (including me) that did not necessarily apply all the recommended power-saving settings, might not have used new healthy NiMH batteries or more sophisticated Garmin GPS devices with a higher power consumption. Therefore, the typical battery lift is rather conservative, and the actual battery life may exceed these values. I will update these numbers once I receive more feedbacks from other hikers that used eTrex20x or eTrex30x devices and applied all the recommended power-saving settings.

Carry enough spares and consider the use of a solar panel to recharge. More information to this subject follows in chapter [3.1.4 Batteries and Electrical Power Supply on page 519](#). If running low on power switch the GPS completely off while the route is clearly visible.

3.1.1.3 Optimizing GPS Displays

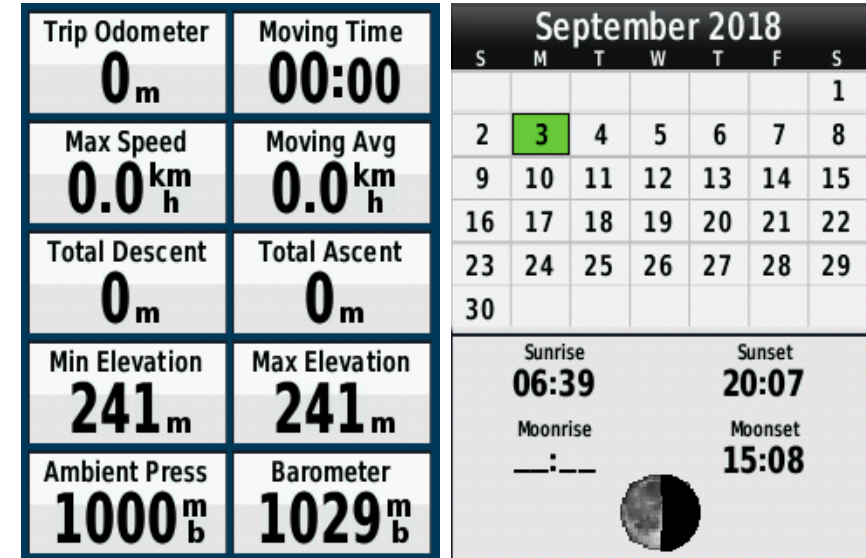
In the **Setup** menu under **Page Sequence** you can select displays that are useful for you i.e. the Map page, the Compass page, the Elevation Plot and many more. By hitting the back button you switch between your pre-select pages without selecting them every time in Main Menu.



Pictures 123, 124, 125, 126 and 127: Addition of Optional Pages on a Garmin eTrex30x

My pre-selected pages are:

- **Map:** Shows the current location on the maps and permits zooming and panning to plan ahead. This is my most frequently used page.
- **Compass:** You can select on the map a point an aim for this point using the Compass page. This is useful in cross country terrain and when packrafting in open water. If your device does not have a magnetic sensor (i.e. the eTrex20x comes without compass) then the orientation is only shown correctly while moving.
- **Elevation Plot:** The elevation plot does not shrink mountains but shows you at least what you climbed and descended.
- **Trip Computer:** You can select the values that you wish to get shown on this page. We tend to reset the counter daily to monitor our daily advance but you can keep the counter running if you love to see big numbers.
- **Sun and Moon:** Knowing sunrise, sunset and moon status is useful to anticipate natural light and know your death-line for finding a suitable camp site. Also the calendar is handy when approaching a section end and planning your resupply trip.
- **Satellite:** In dense forest satellite signal reception may be compromised. This page helps to understand the accuracy of the displayed location.



Picture 128 and 129: Trip Computer and Sun and Moon Page of eTrex30x

Several hikers who attempted to hike parts of the GPT had to abort and backtrack because they were unable to manage the track display, did not set up topographic maps correctly or run out of power on the trail. A proper learning and testing period before the adventure on the GPT could have prevented this.

So, reading GPS suggestions does not replace personal practice with your GPS device. A proper hike would be ideal but even testing in urban areas will be very helpful if you use your GPS with a playful attitude and test the different features and options. Be curious and not scared to change settings. Play! Have a stroll around your home with your GPS, record this track, download the GPX file from your device, convert it into a KMZ file and review your stroll on Google Earth!

Therefore, if you do not have a GPS yet, purchase one latest 3 month before you depart and practice. Setup your device yourself and don't ask a nerdy friend to do it for you. Only if you learn to do it yourself, you will be able to understand and solve your GPS problems yourself when you have nobody around to ask.

3.1.1.4 Practical Considerations

The GPS device should be carried high up on the body within easy reach to facilitate frequent location checks. A mostly unrestricted view to the sky improves the GPS accuracy and minimizes the power consumption. Therefore it is not advisable to carry the GPS i.e. in a hip belt pocket.

To quickly reach my GPS in a location with such a good reception I constantly carry it on top of my shoulder. For this I glued a belt clip to the GPS and stitched a ribbon to my backpack shoulder strap. In this location I can easily reach my GPS and to not loose the device I hook it up with a rubber strap to a D-ring on the shoulder strap.

When packrafting it is particular important to have the GPS within easy reach to not miss critical river exit points. Dangerous rapids and waterfalls may be ahead! When packrafting we also connect the GPS with a string to the packraft or the PFD (Personal Flotation Device). In addition, we attach a flotation device to the GPS as the GPS is heavier than water and sinks to the ground if it falls accidentally into the water.

The plastic screen of a Garmin handheld GPS device is more robust than a typical smart phone glass screen but gets easily scratched. To maintain the screen in good condition I use a protective foil that can be replaced when worn.



Picture 130 and 131: Self made ribbon on backpack shoulder strap to carry the GPS in a location with unrestricted view to the sky. To secure the device against loss it remains hooked to the D-ring whenever moving.

3.1.2 Backup GPS Navigation Device

Relying on the Greater Patagonian Trail on a single electronic navigation device is negligent. A defect like a broken button can render the device useless. Should you lose your GPS on the trail you would not be the first one with this mishap. If your navigation device fails or get lost, you may try to backtrack relying only on your memory but if you are towards the end of a section with the food reserves depleted this is not an appropriate last resort. Also, some parts of route are too confusing to rely on memory.

Therefore, I strongly recommend carrying in addition to a Garmin handheld GPS device a backup navigation device which can be a smartphone that is properly set up for navigation. Combining a Garmin handheld GPS with a smartphone is to my opinion the optimal navigation setup as this combines the advantages of each device to compensate the disadvantages of the other device. A smart phone with a large screen facilitates a proper review of the route before commencing a new section or each morning before departing, it can be linked to the InReach satellite communicator to read and type messages, it serves as a camera and much more. But the higher power consumption makes a smartphone less suitable for constant navigation and track recording.

Make sure that also the power supply is redundant and that your navigation does not depend on a single piece of gear.

The Garmin InReach Explorer is to my opinion not a suitable navigation device. The firmware makes it impossible to upload the GPT route network because the device has a build-in limit of only 25 tracks and 500 waypoints. We use our Garmin InReach Explorer exclusively for communication and to send our current position, so family and friends can follow our progress.

I'm aware that three devices – a handheld GPS, a smartphone and an InReach satellite communicator – seems overkill to some hikers but the remoteness of many areas and the irregular route network make this combination of devices strongly advisable.

3.1.3 Satellite Communication Device

I provided an introduction to communication devices in chapter [1.10.9 Communication on page 140](#) and highly recommended one of these satellite pagers:

- [Garmin InReach Mini](#) 🌐
- [Garmin InReach SE+](#) 🌐
- [Garmin InReach Explorer+](#) 🌐

Less suitable are:

- [Globalstar SPOT Gen3](#) 🌐
- [Globalstar SPOT X](#) 🌐

The Garmin InReach relies on the Iridium satellite network, which has a consistently good coverage that gets better towards the poles. Therefore all Greater Patagonia is very well covered. This good coverage is archived by orbiting the roughly 70 to 80 active satellites over the poles and permanent inter-satellite-data-links. Read the [Wikipedia article](#) 🌐 for more information.

The Globalstar satellite network used by the SPOT devices has a quite different constellation. The number of active satellites is smaller compared to the Iridium network; the satellites do not circle over the poles and have no inter-satellite-data-link but require a data-link to a ground station to send and receive data. This results in a reduced coverage and black-out periods in Patagonia that become worse towards the south. Read the [Wikipedia article](#) 🌐 to the Globalstar system to better understand

these differences. Also, some Globalstar devices (i.e. the SPOT Gen3) can only send but not receive information limiting their usefulness further.

In one season we carried a Globalstar SPOT and a Garmin InReach and clearly noticed the difference. While the InReach successfully send our position signal every 10 minutes the Spot had black-outs lasting several hours even with clear view to the sky. Therefore I do not trust the [Globalstar coverage chart](#) 🌐 that claims that the entire Southern Cone is fully covered.

Based on this experience I consider a Garmin InReach substantially more reliable than a Globalstar SPOT but a SPOT is still substantially better than just a mobile phone.

A Garmin InReach device comes with a price tag of 350 to 450 USD. In addition, you need a satellite data plan. Garmin offers affordable monthly plans that can be purchased for just the time required. We opted for the “RECREATION” plan that includes SOS service, 40 text message per month, position tracking in 10 minutes intervals and weather forecasts for 35 USD per month (plus a 25 USD annual fee). This plan allows that our families and friend can constantly see where we are (position tracking) and we can occasional send and receive text message and request weather forecasts which are quite reliable. A cheaper option is the “SAFETY” plan for 15 USD per month (plus 25 USD annual fee) that includes SOS service only and all data service is payed as used. See the [Garmin InReach page](#) 🌐 for more details.

Note that teh InReach Explorer is not really suitable to navigate on the GPT. The firmware makes it impossible to upload the GPT route network because the device has a build-in limit of only 25 tracks and 500 waypoints. See the previous chapter [3.1.2 Backup GPS Navigation Device on page 516](#) for more information.

3.1.4 Batteries and Electrical Power Supply

The optimal power supply on a long-distance hike is a subject with opposing opinions and a wide range of products that promise the solution. I try to analyse this subject with Engineering methods based on actual measurements and calculations to challenge my own habits and not fall victim to false advertisements and myths.

Before I dive into detail a brief explanation of the used terms and units⁴³:

Voltage: Unit: Volt (V). If comparing different batteries and devices you should know the nominal Voltage. Non-rechargeable Alkaline and Lithium batteries provide approximately 1.5 V. Rechargeable NiMH batteries have a slightly lower voltage of about 1.2 V. Rechargeable Lithium-Ion batteries supply 3.7 V. All USB devices work with 5 V. This applies to USB power consumers and USB power banks with Lithium-Ion batteries. These power banks have electronics that steps up the voltage to 5 V. For more information see [Table 113: Battery and power bank specifications on page 525](#).

Electrical Current: Unit: Ampere (A) or Milliampere (mA). 1000 mA equals 1 A.

Electrical Power Consumption: The commonly used unit for small electrical devices is Watt (W) or Milliwatt (mW). 1000 mW equals 1 W. For DC consumers the power consumption can be calculated by multiplying the supply voltage with the required electrical current. In example a GPS device that is powered with two AA NiMH batteries (2 x 1.25 V) and draws a current of 50 mA has a power consumption of 125 mW (or 0.125 W). Manufacturers sometimes provide the power consumption in Ampere (A) or

⁴³ As an Engineer educated in Europe I use the international SI units (Meter, Kilometer, Kilogramm) and no imperial units (Foot, Miles, Ounces).

Milliampere (mA) what is scientifically incorrect but not an issue if the voltage is known. The conversion between current (A) and power (W) is made by multiplying the current with the voltage.

Electrical Energy Consumption: The technical correct unit is Watthour (Wh). Note the difference between power and energy: power (W) is the rate of consumption while energy (Wh) is the accumulated consumption. So the energy consumption is the summed-up power consumption over a given time span. If you want to compare power and energy with hiking than power is like the speed and energy is like the distance covered.

Stored Electrical Energy: The technical correct unit is Watthour (Wh) but battery manufacturers often use Milliamperehour (mAh) to indicate the capacity of a battery. This is scientifically incorrect but when comparing batteries of the same type this works. But when comparing different battery types the unit mAh is misleading. A Lithium-Ion battery with a capacity of 1000 mAh stores more energy than a 2000 mAh NiMH battery because the Voltage of a Lithium-Ion battery is higher. A Lithium-Ion battery with a 1000 mAh capacity contains roughly 3.7 Wh while a 2000 mAh NiMH battery contains only 2.4 Wh. Note that USB power banks are not rated based on the output voltage but based on the capacity of the internal Lithium-Ion battery.

Specific Stored Energy: The technical correct unit is Watthour per Kilogramm (Wh/kg). This number tells how much electrical energy is stored in relation to the weight of the battery or power pack. You can calculate the specific stored energy of a battery by dividing the stored electrical energy (Wh) by the weight of the battery (kg). As a hiker you obviously want this number to be high, to have as much as possible energy packed into as little as possible weight. But the battery chemistry puts physical limits to this. Understanding this helps to identify obviously false advertisements. I.e. if someone offers an AA NiMH battery with a capacity of 3500 mAh he scams. See [Table 113: Battery and power bank specifications on page 525](#) for more detailed information.

Energy Transfer Efficiency: When charging an electrical device i.e. with a power bank some losses occur. A part of the energy will no end up in the charged device i.e. the smartphone battery but get lost in form of heat while charging. The common unit for efficiency is Percent. An energy transfer efficiency of 75% means that only $\frac{3}{4}$ of the stored electrical energy ends up in the charged battery. When charging a device from the grid in a town you do not need to worry about this, but when charging a device on the trail with a power pack this becomes relevant.

Effective Stored Electrical Energy: Unit: Watthour (Wh). This is the amount of the electrical energy of a power bank that ends up in the charged device when considering the losses of the energy transfer process.

Generated Electrical Power: Unit: Watt (W). Today a wide range of outdoor gear promises a free recharge of your electrical consumers on the trail. Most common are solar panels but also water and wind turbines pushed on the market. The most weird gear I have seen is a stoves that promise to produce electrical energy using the thermoelectric effect. The power might be free but always comes with a weight penalty. Therefore the following is of importance:

Specific Power Generation: Unit: Watt per Kilogram (W/kg). This is the actual archived power output divided by the weight of the device. This number shows the difference between a gadget that just appears cool and an actual useful piece of gear.

3.1.4.1 Electrical Energy Consumption

The actual electrical energy consumption during a long-distance hike depends on the electronic consumers and their use.

A **Garmin handheld GPS device** has a energy consumption of **1.5 Wh to 2.5 Wh per day**⁴⁴ if the previously recommended power saving settings are applied. One pair of AA batteries lasts therefore:

- 2 x NiMH Rechargeable Batteries (2 x 2.2 - 3.0 Wh): 2 to 3 days
- 2 x Alkaline Non-Rechargeable Batteries (2 x 3.0 - 4.2 Wh): 3 to 4 days
- 2 x Lithium Non-Rechargeable Batteries (2 x 4.5 - 5.25 Wh): 4 to 5 days

The power consumption of a **Garmin InReach Satellite Pager** is quite low even in tracking mode. When using it in the “Extended Tracking” mode the device consumes approximately **1 Wh per day**. In the “Extended Tracking” mode the device sends the current position every 10 minutes, but Bluetooth and GPS recording remains deactivated. And of cause, switching the device off while not moving is advisable to maximize the battery life. If an InReach is use in emergencies only then normally no battery power is consumed. This means recharging the InReach on the trail is not necessarily required and can be avoided by minimizing the use i.e. by extending the tracking interval to 1 hour or deactivating tracking completely. Below the capacity of the internal Lithium-Ion

⁴⁴ The typical energy consumption is estimated based on the actual experienced battery lifetime of a few hikers (including me) that did not necessarily apply all the recommended power-saving settings, or used new healthy NiMH batteries or used the more basic Garmin GPS devices of the eTrex series. Therefore, the actual energy consumption is probably closer to 1.5 Wh per day than to the mentioned upper limit. I will update these numbers once I receive more feedbacks from other hikers that used eTrex20x or eTrex30x devices and applied all the recommended power-saving settings. In the following calculations I will assume a daily GPS energy consumption of 2 Wh per day which probably includes a reasonable safety margin.

battery and the approximate running time with 10-minute tracking in the “Extended Tracking” mode:

- InReach Mini with an internal 1250 mAh battery (4.6 Wh): Approximately 5 days
- Newer InReach SE+ and Explorer+ models with an internal 2900 mAh battery (10.7 Wh): Approximately 10 days
- Older InReach SE and Explorer models with an internal 2450 mAh battery (9.1 Wh): Approximately 10 days

The energy consumption of a **smartphone** is generally higher and varies substantially depending on the model and how it gets used. I assume that everyone knows that intense use can consume one full battery charge per day but keeping it in airplane mode with the GPS deactivated will make the internal battery last quite long. The internal Lithium-Ion batteries have depending on the model a capacity between 1'800 and a little over 3'000 mAh what corresponds with 7 to 12 Wh of stored energy. So, the smartphone energy consumption ranges from virtually **0 to about 12 Wh per day**. This high variability makes it difficult to issue specific recommendations what recharge method is optimal.

If a smartphone is used as the primary navigation device, then the actual energy consumption should be carefully tested before the hike to have a good knowledge how many recharges are required on the longest planned sections. This test should measure the actual energy consumption of the smartphone with continuous track recording as this is part of the terms and condition for using the track files. In the following comparison with GPS devices I will assume a daily energy consumption of 5 Wh per day if the smartphone is as primary navigation device what corresponds to one full battery charge for about 2 hiking days. Note, that the actual energy consumption with continuous recording may be even higher. For this reason I use my smartphone only as a backup navigation device in specific circumstances when reviewing satellite images or a high screen resolution is required. A basic handheld GPS simply consumes much less energy than a smartphone and minimizes therefore the total weight.

The additional energy consumption of a **flash light** and a **camera** (if carried in addition to the smartphone) adds to this energy bill.

Knowing your personal electrical energy consumption is important to correctly plan the required amount of batteries and to select the appropriate size of a power bank and/or power generation devices. Therefore I encourage every hiker that plans an adventure on the GPT to measure the actual power consumption of his devices before departing. The device running time with a full battery can be tested by selecting the to recommended power saving mode and simply monitor how long the device keeps running till the battery is depleted and the device faints out. This test verifies the actual capacity of the internal battery and the consumption of the device. When recharging the device, you can measure the power consumption by plugging an USB power monitor in between the USB charger and the tested device. These USB metering devices are cheap, simple to use and readily available online.

An inexpensive recommendable USB power monitor is the [PortaPow Dual USB Power Monitor](#) 🌐.

If you run low on power or navigate with your backup navigation device you should completely switched off the handheld GPS or put the smartphone in airplane mode and deactivate GPS recording whenever the route is sufficiently visible.

3.1.4.2 Batteries and Power Banks

The most versatile way to carry electrical energy are batteries. The following table shows the characteristics of commonly used and recommendable battery types and USB power banks.

Battery Type	Stored Energy	Weight	Specific Stored Energy	Nominal Voltage	Actual Range	Comment
Rechargeable AA Batteries						
AA NiMH Battery	2.2 – 3.0 Wh 1'800 – 2'500 mAh	25 g	85 – 120 Wh/kg	1.2 V	1.4 – 1.1 V	New quality NiMH batteries have a capacity of 2'000 – 2'500 mAh but over time and with frequent use this drops.
Non-Rechargeable AA Batteries						
AA Alkaline Battery	3.0 – 4.2 Wh 2'000 – 2'800 mAh	23 g	130 – 180 Wh/kg	1.5 V	1.6 – 1.1 V	Alkaline batteries are good for devices with a low power consumption (GPS).
AA Lithium Battery	4.5 – 5.25 Wh 3'000 – 3'500 mAh	15 g	300 – 350 Wh/kg	1.5 V	1.8 – 1.5 V	Lithium batteries have the highest specific energy but are more costly.
Other Rechargeable Batteries and Power Banks						
Lithium-Ion Battery	Depending on size	Depending on size	Approximately 200 Wh/kg	3.7 V	4.1 – 3.7 V	Most devices with build in batteries have Lithium-Ion batteries installed.
5000 mA Power Bank	Nominal 18.5 Wh Effective 13 - 15 Wh	120 – 150 g	Nominal 125 – 200 Wh/kg	5.0 V	5.0 V	USB power banks are specified based on the capacity of the internal Lithium-Ion batteries (3.7 V) and not the output voltage (5.0 V) of the USB port.
10'000 mA Power Bank	Nominal 37 Wh Effective 26 - 30 Wh	180 – 240 g	Effective 100 – 160 Wh/kg	5.0 V	5.0 V	

Table 113: Battery and power bank specifications

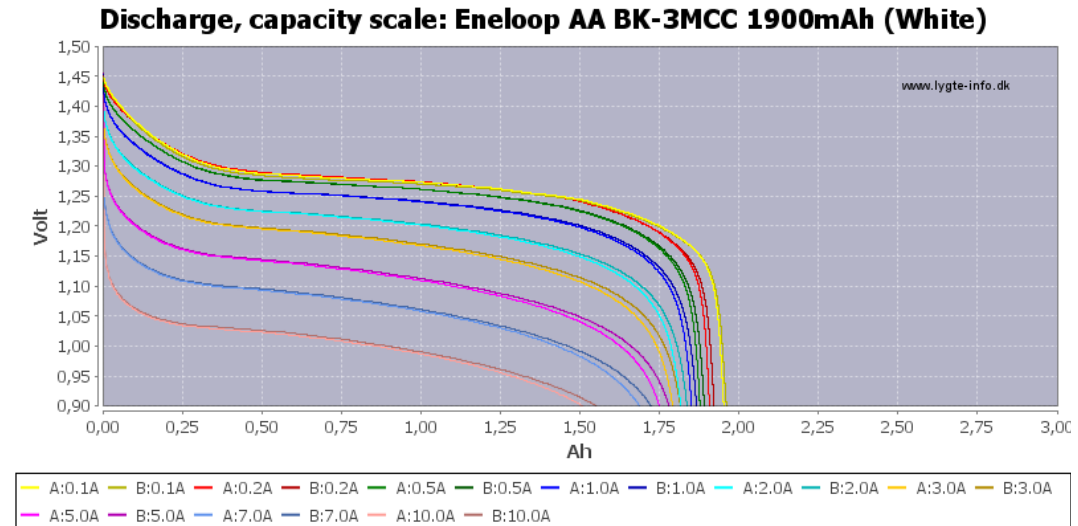
3.1.4.2.1 Rechargeable NiMH Batteries

Be aware that the battery voltage depends on the charging state, the temperature and the load during use (consumer). When fully charged the voltage is slightly higher than the nominal voltage. During use the voltage drops. By measuring the voltage the battery state can be estimated.

This is particular helpful when using rechargeable NiMH batteries. A fully charged NiMH battery provides 1.4 V at an ambient temperature of approx. 20 °C (open-circuit voltage). At the beginning of the discharge cycle (first 10% of capacity) the voltage drops quickly to 1.3 V where the “plateau” starts. Once the plateau is reached the voltage slowly decreases during use to about 1.2 V (80% of capacity). When the battery is nearly empty the voltage drops again sharply (last 10% of capacity).

To maximize the life of rechargeable NiMH batteries the following should be observed:

- For the GPS use pairs of batteries that you always charge and use together (best mark the batteries i.e. A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2, D1, D2 to easily identify pair A, B, C and D). Don't mix a fully charged battery with a half-empty battery in the GPS. This makes your GPS faint quickly and may damage the batteries permanently (reverse-charging).



Picture 132: NiMH battery discharge curve. For GPS devices the discharge current is typical 0.1 A or less therefore the highest curve of the diagram is applicable. Image: lygte-info.dk

- Don't overcharge batteries. This is best done by charging two pairs of equally empty batteries together in the Goal Zero Guide 10 charger (With the Goal Zero device you must charge 4 batteries together otherwise this charger does not work. By combining 4 batteries with a similar discharge state the charger works more effective and the batteries suffer less.)
- Don't overheat batteries. Keep the batteries in a shady and ventilated location when charging. The gear pockets on the back of a solar panel is not suitable to hold the charger while charging.
- Be aware, that poor copies of brand batteries are sold in dodgy places (eBay, street vendors, ...) that have often a much lower capacity than advertised. Therefore, get your NiMH batteries before your trip in a trustworthy location. I made good experiences with the eneloop NiMH batteries (2'000 mAh) and the four NiMH batteries that come with Goal Zero Guide 10 plus charger (2'300 mAh).
- Be careful with high-capacity NiMH batteries that are rated with more than 2'000 mAh. These batteries are more sensible to over-charging or reverse-charging what can accidentally happen if two batteries with different discharge states are mixed in one device. I will test on my next investigation trip the eneloop Pro batteries with a rated capacity of 2'500 mAh. They are more fragile so let's see how they behave in the field!

I fabricated a tiny ultra-light voltmeter from simple of-the-shelf electronics that I use on my hikes to monitor the state of my NiMH batteries. This helps to combine batteries of a similar discharge stage to recharge these batteries effectively without overcharging them.

3.1.4.2.2 Non-Rechargeable Alkaline Batteries

To be issued.

3.1.4.2.3 Non-Rechargeable Lithium Batteries

To be issued.

3.1.4.2.4 Rechargeable Lithium-Ion Batteries

To be issued.

3.1.4.2.5 USB Power Banks

The only lossless method to “recharge” a depleted device is changing batteries. This is one reason why I prefer a Garmin GPS device over smartphones. A battery change takes seconds and no electrical energy is lost.

In contrast, charging a smartphone or an InReach device with a USB power bank is not lossless. My measurements showed me that only 70% - 80% of the energy ends up in the charged battery and 20% - 30% of the energy is converted into useless heat during the energy transfer process. These losses are unavoidable due to the battery chemistry and the power consumption of the electronics in the power bank and the charged device.⁴⁵ This means that a 10'000 mAh power bank with a rated capacity of 37 Wh

⁴⁵ I estimate that about one third of the losses (7% to 10%) occur in the power bank by stepping up the voltage from the internal Lithium-Ion battery (3.7 V) to the USB voltage (5.0 V). The remaining two third of the losses (13% to 20%) occur in the charged device when transforming the USB voltage (5.0 V) into the appropriate charging voltage (4.25 V) for the internal Lithium-Ion battery and by losses in the charged battery itself (internal battery resistance). The rule of thumb is: As warmer your devices become while charging as higher are the losses.

equals 26 – 30 Wh in your smartphone and InReach. Therefore the effective specific stored energy of a USB power bank with Lithium-Ion batteries (100 – 160 Wh/kg) tends to be slightly lower than the specific stored energy of AA Alkaline batteries (130 – 180 Wh/kg) and not much better than NiMH batteries (75 – 120 Wh/kg). Non-rechargeable Lithium Batteries (300 – 350 Wh/kg) are clearly on top of the list when minimizing weight.

Calculation examples:

- Fully charging an InReach Mini with an internal 1'250 mAh (1.25 Ah) Lithium-Ion battery:
Stored Electrical Energy of internal battery: $1.25 \text{ Ah} \times 3.7 \text{ V} = 4.6 \text{ Wh}$
Required power bank energy for recharging with a 75% Energy Transfer Efficiency: $4.6 \text{ Wh} / 0.75 \approx 6 \text{ Wh}$
This corresponds to 1'650 mAh of the nominal power bank capacity
- Fully charging an iPhone 7 with an internal 1'960 mAh (1.96 Ah) Lithium-Ion battery:
Stored Electrical Energy of internal battery: $1.96 \text{ Ah} \times 3.7 \text{ V} = 7.3 \text{ Wh}$
Required power bank energy for recharging with a 75% Energy Transfer Efficiency: $7.3 \text{ Wh} / 0.75 \approx 10 \text{ Wh}$
This corresponds to 2'650 mAh of the nominal power bank capacity

When using a USB power bank with Lithium-Ion batteries consider the following:

- Select your power bank wisely. Compare weight and capacity before purchase. Stylish slim power banks may look nice but have typically a worse specific energy rating (more weight for the same capacity).

- Avoid discharging Lithium-Ion completely. Better top up your smart phone and InReach when the remaining power drops below 25%. Lithium-Ion batteries do not suffer from a “memory-effect” like the obsolete Nickel-Cadmium batteries but dislike deep discharges. It is better to recharge a Lithium-Ion battery several times instead of fully discharging a battery and then recharging the battery completely.
- I suspect that bringing the internal battery of a smartphone or an InReach all the way up to 100% results in more losses. Therefore, if recharging such a device with a power bank on the trail, stop charging once reaching about 90% battery charge. Of course, this does not apply when charging a device from the grid during a resupply stop in a town. Then get everything fully charged.
- If using a power bank to recharge the InReach and a smartphone keep some reserve in the power bank to later choose depending on circumstances for what you need the energy more. Navigation or communication in case of an emergency.

The Goal Zero Guide 10 plus AA NiMH battery charger can also be used as a power bank but the efficiency is much lower compared to a power bank with Lithium-Ion batteries. For more information to this gadget see [3.1.4.4.2 USB AA NiMH Battery Charger on page 539](#).

3.1.4.3 USB Charger

A USB charger is required to recharge the smartphone and the USB power bank during resupply town visits. In Chile and Argentina, the same voltage and grid frequency is used (220 V / 50 Hz) but both nations have different sockets. In Chile a USB charger with an [Europlug](#) 🌐 works perfectly fine. For Argentina an additional [Type I](#) 🌐 adapter may be useful.

To shorten charging time a high-power 2 A charger is preferable over a standard 1 A USB charger. The weight difference is not significant. A 1 A USB charger weighs typically 30 g. A 2 A charger can be as light as 36 g.



Picture 133, 134 and 135:

Left: Standard in Chile (Type L, CEI 23-16 VII. Same as Italia and Uruguay)

Center: Current Standard in Argentina (Type I, AS 3112. Same as Australia)

Right: Older Standard in Argentina (Type C, Europlug)

Image: Martín Lizondo

3.1.4.4 Solar Panels and Other Outdoor Power Generators

Generating electrical energy on the trail sounds cool and is a tempting option. In the following I will analyse 3 power generation devices and calculate the approximate break-even point from which carrying such a device becomes beneficial. The results of this analysis might surprise.

3.1.4.4.1 Solar Panels

A wide range of outdoor solar panels with USB outlets are available now. Testing them all is practically impossible, but I measured and compared about 10 devices from various manufactures in recent years. The following analysis is based on these performance measurements and not the often exaggerated manufacturer specifications.

My first and most important lesson learned is: Don't trust the advertised power output. Most of these numbers are exaggerated and I also noticed substantial variations between seemingly equal devices from the same manufacturer. I made my worst experience with the Goal Zero Nomad 7 Plus with a rated output power of 7 W. When delivered it supplied 1.5 to 2 W in bright sunlight with a perfect vertical alignment to the sun. After about 4 weeks on the trail it died completely (less than 0.1 W) presumable due to failed internal contacts (no external damage evident). Therefore, be sceptical and measure the actual performance of your solar panel before relying on it. This can be done easily with the previously recommended USB power monitor. Don't trust blinking charging lights as these start blinking with a tiny trickle charge. Measure the actual charging current and trust only values that you measured yourself.

To charge smartphones, AA NiMH batteries and power banks with solar power in a reasonable time a panel with a USB outlet and

a power output of approximately 5 W is needed. Such a panel provides a charging current of 1 A when vertical alignment to the sun on a cloudless day and not too high ambient temperatures. It still supplies a few hundred mA under less favourable condition, i.e. when charging while hiking with the panel fixed to the backpack what normally results in a suboptimal alignment to the sun.

Bigger solar panels make only sense if you have an unusual high power consumption i.e. when:

- carrying and using a tablet on the trail,
- relying on recharging in less favourable condition (areas with normally cloudy weather),
- travelling in a bigger group with more power-hungry smartphones and cameras or
- if you don't need to care much about weight (packrafting with very little hiking).

Based on multiple tests I conclude that a good outdoor solar panel has a specific power generation of roughly 20 W/kg. So a panel with a 5 W power output weights around 250 g.

In addition to the solar panel a AA NiMH battery charger is required. I recommend⁴⁶ the [Goal Zero Guide 10 plus](#) 🌐 device that weights 64 g. The bonus feature of this device is that it can also be used as a USB power bank by discharging AA NiMH batteries. But the Goal Zero charger comes with the disadvantage that it charges only 4 NiMH batteries together. Alternatively use the [EBL USB Quick Charger](#) 🌐. The advantage of the EBL charger is that it charges individual batteries (a single battery if you want) and

⁴⁶ The Goal Zero Guide 10 plus is the only piece of equipment I can recommend from Goal Zero. Most Goal Zero solar panels that I tested showed a terrible performance and reliability. Especially the new Goal Zero Nomad 7 plus was very disappointing. Instead of the advertised 7 W it provided during the first test mere 1.5 W and after a few weeks it was completely death.

that it charges faster if you have enough USB power (i.e. if you have up to 2 A USB input current in towns or with a bigger solar panel). But the EBL charger can not be used as a power bank. The weight of the EBL charger is with 68 g nearly identical. For more information to these USB AA NiMH chargers see [3.1.4.4.2 USB AA NiMH Battery Charger on page 539](#).

In addition, a sufficiently long Mini-USB cable is required. While charging, the batteries should not be “cooked” in the sunlight or the pocket on the back of the hot solar panel. There the batteries deteriorate quickly.

To charge four NiMH batteries while hiking you need two additional NiMH batteries for your GPS. So you must carry at least six NiMH batteries to have also enough backup power for a series of cloudy and rainy days.

So, a 5 W solar panel set with a charger, a cable and sufficient batteries weights at least 475 g:

- 5 W solar panel: Approximately 250 g
- AA battery charger: 65 g
- Mini-USB cable: 10 g
- 6 x AA NiMH batteries: $6 \times 25 \text{ g} = 150 \text{ g}$

This provides a good baseline to calculate the break-even point at which carrying a solar panel becomes beneficial. I do this by assembling hypothetical non-solar power supply sets of a similar weight. Only if all of these hypothetical sets would still be insufficient than a solar panel becomes beneficial.

- Option 1: 20 Alkaline batteries (460 g). This hypothetical set provides roughly 30 days of power for the GPS device but no

recharge for the smart phone or InReach.

- Option 2: A 10'000 mAh USB Power Bank and 10 Alkaline batteries (Approximately 440 g). This hypothetical set provides roughly 15 days of power for the GPS device, two smartphone and two InReach Mini recharges.
- Option 3: A 5'000 mAh USB Power Bank, 10 NiMH batteries and an AA NiMH battery charger with a cable (Approximately 460 g). This is a hypothetical set of someone that opts for rechargeable AA NiMH batteries instead of Alkaline batteries for environmental and/or cost reasons while recharging the AA NiMH batteries in towns only. This hypothetical set provides roughly 10 days of power for the GPS device, one smartphone and one InReach Mini recharge.

Comparing the 5 W solar panel kid with these three non-solar options shows pretty clearly that the break even-point for a solar panel is far down the trail. Walking 10 to 15 days without resupplying is only required on the longest sections and a solar panel pays really off when exceeding this duration.

Conclusion 1: For someone that hikes light and fast a solar panel is rarely beneficial.

There are other motives that may make a solar panel beneficial: cost cutting, an unusual high power consumption on the trail, autarky and slowness.

Minimizing costs: A overnight town-stop with a proper bed is something that most hikers enjoy but hikers with a tight budget might prefer to just buy food and return to the trail immediately. A solar panel eliminates the dependence on power sockets what helps to cut town time and no money must be spend on batteries.

Unusual high power consumption: Smartphone junkies will suffer on the GPT as there is little connectivity. But some hikers will probably still find reasons and opportunities to spend “quality time” with their smartphone on the trail. A solar panel helps covering the resulting power consumption. This applies also to hikers that carry and use a tablet computer on the trail.

Autarky and slowness: The primary range limitation when hiking is food; it’s the fuel for the body and we can carry only a certain amount in our backpacks. If someone gets extra food along the trail, he extends his range and postpones the moment at which we must eventually bail out to resupply.

Resupplying at the section start or section end is often possible in the far north and in the south but from GPT05 to GPT12 and from section GPT19 to GPT21 hikers “normally” need to take a bus to get to a proper resupply town further away. Such a resupply trip can take up to 3 days.

I used the word “normally” because there is a trick how to remain on the trail in this particular scenic and hiking-friendly area: purchase food from the *arrieros*, the native *Pehuenche* and settlers that live during the summer on the trail. There are also a few kiosks or mini shops in the tiny settlements on the trail that sell some basic supplies. At the right time you may also harvest piñones on sections GPT10 to GPT16 which provides plenty of free carbohydrates. So, in these areas food is easier to obtain than electricity. If you have a solar panel to recharge your electronics you can use these unplannable opportunities to get some additional food to remain longer on the trail. We frequently use such informal resupplies to stay 2 to 3 weeks on the trail, often with relaxing “zero” and “nero” days in company with residents on the trail. Our solar panel helped us to keep our electronics fully charged to not worry about remaining power. When being a guest at a *puesto* a solar has a bonus feature: you can offer to charge the mobile phones of your hosts.

Conclusion 2: **A solar panel adds autonomy and permits slowing down if you get enough extra calories on the trail.**

Should you opt for a **solar panel** consider the following **best practices and lessons learned**:

- Don't buy a solar panel with a build-in battery (integrated power bank). This only seems handy but is not. While charging the battery inevitably overheats what quickly deteriorates the battery. Also, if just one of the two components deteriorates you have to scrap both.
- I prefer foldable solar panels as they are more robust during transport. A single thin panel needs more care as it is easily crushed in the backpack. But a single panel without folds is easier to set up and to align to the sun. Choose whatever you find appropriate for you.
- I know I repeat myself, but this is really important: Test your panel before relying on it! Rated values are normally exaggerated. You probably need to purchase a panel that is rated as 7 W or 10 W to get the recommended 5 W power output. Best use one of these tiny USB power monitors that indicate voltage and current to verify the actual performance after purchase.
- Align your solar panel vertical to the sun when charging. To find the optimal angle tilt and rotate the panel to create the largest possible shadow on the ground. The largest shadow means the most sun on the panel. When charging while hiking choose a suitable average position for the solar panel on the backpack.
- While charging, connect the charged device(s) with a long enough cable to the solar panel to keep your charged gadget(s) in a shady and ventilated location. Avoid placing the charged devices in the pockets on the back of the solar panel. These

pockets might be useful to carry your charging gear while not using the panel but not when charging.

- Carrying a USB power monitor on the trail is also handy to optimize the orientation of the panel to the sun and to check what is happening in suboptimal conditions i.e. cloudy weather. If you see that the charging current is unreasonable low don't hazzle yourself with fruitless charging attempts. Many USB power monitors have two USB outlets. This makes the power monitor a handy "splitter" to charge two devices simultaneously from one USB outlet (i.e. in towns).
- Some smartphones react oddly to variable charging currents. If the USB power output is temporary reduced these devices readjust to the reduced power output and continue charging with the reduced current even if the USB power output recovers to a higher level. If i.e. a cloud passes the solar power output drops and when the sunshine is back the smart phone uses only a fraction of the available power. This effect is particular annoying when charging while walking. The changing orientation and the shade of trees along the trail inevitably results in a fluctuating power output.

A power monitor helps to recognize and to respond to this effect. If this happens simply unplug and replug the charged device. Smarter solar panels have build-in electronics that do this automatically.

- Another barely known effect is the solar panel response to a partial shading. If i.e. 10% of the solar panel surface is covered the power output drops typically much more than just 10%. I tested solar panels that loose around 90% of the power output when 10% of the solar panel surface is in the shade. It needs a special solar panel configuration and a good electronics to minimize this effect. If you have a USB power monitor you can verify yourself how your panel reacts to partial shading.

- Be aware that solar panels work best at lower temperatures. This makes a bright fresh morning the best time for charging. Just take make sure to tilt the solar panel enough to harvest the maximum amount of energy while the sun is low.

With my mixed experience I'm reluctant to recommend a specific item or brand. I made reasonable good experiences with solar panels sold by Anker but they only offer panels that are a bit bigger and heavier than actually needed. The Anker "15 W" solar panel has a maximum output of about 8 W and the weight is close to 400 g. A bit oversized for a group of two.

3.1.4.4.2 USB AA NiMH Battery Charger

Any outdoor power generator requires in addition a suitable AA NiMH charger to use the generated electrical energy in a handheld GPS device. In the previous chapter I briefly mentioned the [Goal Zero Guide 10 plus](#) 🌐 and the [EBL USB Quick Charger](#) 🌐.

If you carry a **Goal Zero Guide 10 plus** AA NiMH battery charger with your power generation device calculate with the following charging and discharging efficiencies and currents:

- Maximum USB charging current: 0.8 A (rated and measured)
Even if you have more power available the Goal Zero charger will not "draw" more than 0.8 A from the USB port. This corresponds to 4 W. Therefore, a solar panel bigger than 5 W is only beneficial in suboptimal conditions if used with this AA NiMH battery charger (charging while hiking or charging in cloudy weather). Fully charging 4 depleted NiMH batteries takes around 4 to 6 hours depending on the battery capacity. Note that the charging rate towards the end of the charging cycle is relatively low. Therefore I often stop the charging when the green light starts blinking fast.

- Goal Zero Charging Efficiency: 65% to 70%
To fully charge 4 depleted AA NiMH batteries with a capacity of 2'000 mAh (4 x 2.4 Wh) roughly 14 to 15 Wh are required.
- Goal Zero Power Bank Mode Efficiency: 60% to 75%
If using 4 fully charged AA NiMH batteries with a capacity of 2'000 mAh (4 x 2.4 Wh) roughly 6 to 7 Wh of USB power can be generated. If the charged USB device “draws” a lower current (0.5 A or less i.e. the InReach Mini) the energy transfer is more efficient (closer to 75%). Connecting bigger consumers (1 A or more like smartphones) makes the power bank mode of the Goal Zero charger rather inefficient (closer to 60%).
- Alkaline batteries should not be used to generate USB power with a Goal Zero Guide 10 due to an even lower efficiency caused by the poor Alkaline battery behaviour at a high discharge current. Efficiency is likely to be less than 40% so more than half of the energy is converted into useless heat.
- Lithium batteries may be used as an emergency backup to generate USB power with a Goal Zero Guide 10. If using 4 Lithium batteries with a capacity of 3'000 mAh (4 x 4.5 Wh) approximately 11 to 13 Wh of USB power can be generated. Since Lithium batteries behave well at high discharge currents this conversion is reasonable efficient.

If carrying an **EBL USB Quick Charger** calculate with the following charging efficiencies and currents:

- Maximum USB charging current: 2.1 A (rated) / 1.7 A (measured)
Fully charging 4 depleted NiMH batteries takes around 2 to 3.5 hours depending on the battery capacity.

- EBL USB Quick Charger Charging Efficiency: Approximately 45%

To fully charge 4 depleted AA NiMH batteries with a capacity of 2'000 mAh (4 x 2.4 Wh) roughly 21 Wh are required.

3.1.4.4.3 Bio Lite CampStove

I recently stumbled in an outdoor shop over a piece of gear that also promises to charge electronics in the outdoors: the Bio Lite CampStove. This stove promises to produce electrical energy using the thermoelectric effect. All you need are small pieces of wood to recharge your gadgets while cooking with fire. Here the link: <https://eu.bioliteenergy.com/products/campstove-2> 🌐

This sounds cool? Certainly! But before getting excited let's analyse it. The manufacturer specification states that the weight is 935 g and that the peak power output is 3 W. So, it would feel like a heavy stone in the backpack and when reading "peak power" I instantly know that I should not expect this output under normal conditions. So, let's assume that an average power output of 2 W can be maintained over some time. 2 W out of 1 kg of gear means a specific power generation of 2 W/kg.

Compare it with a solar panel: A solar panel has 10 times the specific power output (20 W/kg). Therefore, a solar panel with the same power output would weight just 100 g and you do not need to throw constantly wood chips into it. I would go for the panel!

Let's calculate how long it would take to charge a smartphone with a typical 2'000 mAh battery. 2'000 mAh corresponds to 7.4 Wh stored energy (you remember 2 Ah x 3.7 V = 7.4 Wh). If considering a charging efficiency of around 80% you need to produce at least 9 Wh of electrical energy to get it fully charged. With an average output of 2 W it would take 4 to 5 hours of keeping the stove running to recharge an empty smart phone. I would be annoyed!

A comparison with a power bank is even more embarrassing for the Bio Lite CampStove. A USB power bank of the same weight has an effective stored energy of up to 160 Wh. To produce the same amount of energy you need to run the Bio Lite CampStove somewhere around 100 h when assuming an average power output of 2 W and a charging efficiency of 80%.

If used 2 to 3 hours per day it produces only 4 to 6 Wh per day what would be barely be enough to keep a GPS and a InReach device running (considering the Goal Zero Charging Efficiency of 65% to 70%).

I can look at this piece of gear from whatever angle and I can't see under what circumstances it provides a true benefit. Therefore, carrying the Bio Lite CampStove on a hike proves only the inability or unwillingness to analyse. So, for me this is a useless toy for adults that want to play the outdoor guy!

3.1.4.4.4 WaterLily Turbine

There is another power generator that recently pushed on the market: the WaterLily Turbine. The designers suggest using it in fast flowing rivers or hung up in a tree to harvest wind energy. Here the link: <https://waterlilyturbine.com/products/waterlily-turbine> 🌐.

According to the manufacturers specification the weight is 1.3 kg and the peak power output is 15 W. Again, peak power means that a bit less should be expected. I will assume an average power generation of 10 W for my analysis. With 1.3 kg it's heavy but with approximately 10 W output it produces more than a trickle charge.

The specific power generation of the WaterLily Turbine is 8 W/kg. Much better than the Bio Lite CampStove (2 W/kg) but still inferior to solar panels (20 W/kg). Therefore there is no reason to carry this turbine in areas with enough sunshine. Solar panels

come with the additional benefit that you can choose the size you actually need. This does not apply to the turbine; you can't carry half the turbine if you just need half the power.

The advantage of this turbine is that it works without constant attention like a solar panel and unlike like the Bio Lite CampStove that needs to be constantly feed with wood chips. So, someone can set it up when pitching camp and let it run over night hoping that it does not rain too heavy to find the turbine in the morning blocked by leaves and twigs or even flushed away.

If used every second night for 10 hours it produces 100 Wh per use or 50 Wh per day in average. Finding every night a spot with suitable conditions for this gear is not realistic and 50 Wh per day is still much more than a typical hiker or packrafter possibly needs. So in most cases it would be overkill.

Let's compare this turbine with a power bank of the same weight. 1.3 kg of power banks store up to 200 Wh effective energy. This corresponds to running the turbine twice for 10 hours. That's not bad but only useful if you really need a lot of electrical power. And I mean a lot!

So the WaterLily Turbine is no complete non-sense like the Bio Lite CampStove. But carrying this turbine only pays of under very specific circumstances. It makes only sense in regions with insufficient sunshine. This might be the case when packrafting or seakayaking in the Patagonian fjords otherwise a solar panel is more effective and practical. And it is only beneficial on a rather long trip of a bigger group or for activities that require lots of electrical power i.e. when filming with (semi-)professional gear.

3.1.5 Conclusion

The previous analysis showed that there is no “one-size-fits-all-solution” but that hikers must make individual choices that match personal preferences and hiking habits. Also the chosen sections should be considered. Sunshine is frequent in the north (GPT01 to GPT15) and on the Argentine side (GPT23 to GPT26) making a solar panel more beneficial on these sections. In other areas someone might have bad luck and be pursuit by clouds and rain for a week or even more.

In the following I outline and compare five power supply options for different hiking styles and budgets. Choose what fits best to you and fine-tune it to your necessities.

Add images.


Item	Comment	Luxury Ultra-Light	Ultra-Light	Economy Light	Autarky & High-Power	Smartphones Only
Navigation and Communication Devices						
GPS	Recommended Primary Navigation Device	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Smartphone	Recommended Backup Navigation Device	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Backup Smartphone	Second Backup Smartphone if no GPS used	-	-	-	-	Yes
InReach	Satellite Communication Device	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Power Generator						
Solar Panel	A solar panel with an actual 5 W power output is normally sufficient	-	-	-	Yes	-
Batteries and Power Banks						
AA Lithium Batteries	Lithium batteries have the highest specific stored energy but are costly	Yes	Opt.	Opt.	Opt.	-
AA Alkaline Batteries	Alkaline batteries are cheaper and easier to find in small resupply towns	-	Yes	Opt.	-	-
AA NiMH Batteries	Rechargeable batteries minimize cost but slightly increase weight	-	-	Yes	Yes	-
AA USB Charger	Rechargeable batteries require a charger that may serve as power bank	Opt.	-	Yes	Yes	-
USB Power Bank	USB devices are best recharged with a Lithium-Ion power bank	Opt.	Yes	Yes	Opt.	Yes
220 V USB Charger						
USB Charger	220 V USB Charger with Europlug  and Type L Adapter for Argentina	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 114: Navigation Equipment Options (Opt.: Optional)

3.1.5.1 Luxury Ultra-Light Option

Non-rechargeable Lithium batteries have a high specific energy compared to most other battery types including rechargeable Lithium-Ion batteries. Only 7.5 g of battery power are required to run a basic handheld GPS one full hiking day. This makes this option the lightest but also the most expensive option as Lithium batteries are costlier.

Be aware that Lithium batteries are normally not available in smaller towns in Chile and Argentina. In this case Alkaline batteries should be purchased. So, maintaining this luxury ultra-light strategy over the length of the GPT is difficult without a “bounce-box”.

Hikers that put so much effort and money in minimizing weight will probably also minimize smartphone use to not carry a USB power bank or only a small one. Therefore it would not be a completely stupid idea to carry for emergencies a Goal Zero Guide 10 plus charger (64 g) as this device can be used with the Lithium batteries as a emergency USB power bank. Considering the expected transformation losses four Lithium batteries correspond roughly an effective stored energy of 12 Wh for the smartphone or the InReach. If i.e. the GPS fails the smartphone can be recharged at least once while being used for navigation. Or in case of an accident the InReach Mini can be recharged twice. This may eliminate the need to carry a USB power bank saving a few grams (A 5'000 mAh USB power bank weights at least 120 g and has an effective stored energy of 13 - 15 Wh).

Add images.

3.1.5.2 Ultra-Light Option

Alkaline batteries are less costly and more easily available than Lithium batteries. Around 15 g of battery power are sufficient to run a Garmin eTrex20x or 30x one hiking day. Even on the longest sections this is still lighter than rechargeable NiMH batteries and a solar recharge kit.

A pair of Lithium batteries might be carried as a backup if the amount of Alkaline batteries is calculated without much reserves.

A USB power bank should be carried to recharge the smartphone (backup navigation device) and the InReach communication device.

This option provides a good balance between minimizing weight and minimizing cost.

[Add images.](#)

3.1.5.3 Economy Light Option

Someone who dislikes non-rechargeable batteries for environmental reasons and prefers rechargeable batteries can use NiMH batteries and recharge these batteries during resupply town stops. To keep the GPS running 25 g of battery are required per hiking day. This is heavier than using Alkaline and Lithium batteries but less costly since no money is spend regularly on single-use batteries.

For a weight comparison two additional aspects need to be considered. First: a AA NiMH battery charger and a cable is require. And second: the amount of batteries is determined by the power demand of the longest section. If i.e. 12 batteries are required for the longest section (or combination of sections) than these 12 batteries need to be carried on all other sections as well even if not really needed. So the weight of this equipment options is set by the required maximum range and not by the actual length of each section.

Alternatively, a smaller set of rechargeable NiMH batteries (i.e. 4, 6 or 8 pieces) can be carried during the entire hike that is complemented only on for longer sections by a few Alkaline batteries to extend the range as needed.

A set of four Lithium batteries (4 x 15 g) might also be a wise backup. These Lithium batteries can either be used in the handheld GPS or in the Goal Zero Guide 10 to recharge USB devices in emergencies (smartphone, InReach). This can be an alternative to carrying a large power bank.

Add images.

3.1.5.4 Autarky & High-Power Option

As analysed before a solar panel becomes only beneficial on very long hikes (two weeks or more between proper resupplies) and when a lot of electric power is required on the trail (intense smartphone use, tablet computer use). On sections shorter than two weeks it is normally lighter to carry just the right amount of batteries than adding a solar panel, an AA battery charger and sufficient rechargeable NiMH batteries to the gear.

On the GPT several sections or combinations of sections are close to this break-even point but not clearly beyond. Therefore, it is worth considering this option, but it will not be the optimal choice for all hikers on the GPT.

A valid motive for carrying a solar panel on the GPT is the increased autarky that permits to slow down and a worriless use of electronic devices on the trail. But for hikers that want to be fast and light a solar panel rarely pays off.

Carrying a set of four Lithium batteries (4 x 15 g) is a wise complement to a solar power set. These Lithium batteries can be used in the handheld GPS i.e. if the solar panel fails or the sun disappears for more than a week behind clouds. In addition, these 4 Lithium batteries can be used in the Goal Zero Guide 10 to recharge USB devices in emergencies (smartphone, InReach). This can be an alternative to carrying a power bank.

Add images.

3.1.5.5 Smartphones Only Option

Some hikers in recent years relied on smartphones only and did not carry a handheld GPS. Some managed to navigate the longer sections but deactivate GPS navigation and GPS recording whenever possible to make the smartphone battery and the power banks last long enough. Some smartphone users also struggled with the track file conversion and often lost a part of the track information in the conversion process. Based on these feedbacks I'm reluctant to recommend this option.

Also, the higher power consumption of a smartphone eliminates the assumed weight benefit. A smartphone with GPS navigation and GPS recording activated consumes roughly 5 Wh per day. To have a range of 12 hiking days two 10'000 mAh power banks are required to recharge the smartphone every second day (at least 360 g in USB power banks). In comparison a handheld GPS consumes approximately 2 Wh per day so for the same 12-day period 8 Alkaline batteries are sufficient to keep the navigation device powered up (184 g in Alkaline batteries).

We start our smartphone occasionally to review satellite images when investigating new routes and to link it for a few minutes with the InReach to type messages and check the weather forecast. This preserves the battery to have the smartphone available as backup navigation device should the GPS fail.

Add images.

3.1.5.6 Weight Comparison of Power Supply Options

Power Supply Option	Device Consumption ⁴⁷	Cost per Day of Navigation	Weight per Day of Navigation	Additional Base Weight per Day of Range	Additional Base Weight
Luxury Ultra-Light Option GPS & AA Lithium Batteries	2 AA: 4 – 5 days	1 – 3 EUR	7.5 g	-	-
Ultra-Light Option GPS & AA Alkaline Batteries	2 AA: 3 – 4 days	0.25 – 1 EUR	15 g	-	-
Economy Light Option GPS & AA NiMH Batteries	2 AA: 2 – 3 days	-	-	25 g	75 g
Autarky & High-Power Option GPS & AA NiMH Bat. & Solar Panel	2 AA: 2 – 3 days	-	-	-	At least 475 g
Smartphones Only Option Smartphones & USB Power Bank	1 smartphone charge: ≈ 2 days	-	-	At least 30 g	Backup Smartphone

Table 115: Navigation Equipment Options (Weight per day)

⁴⁷ The typical battery life is based on the experience of a few hikers (including me) that did not necessarily apply all the recommended power-saving settings, used new healthy NiMH batteries or the more basic Garmin GPS devices of the eTrex series. Therefore, these values are rather conservative, and the actual battery life may exceed these values. I will update these numbers once I receive more feedbacks from other hikers that used eTrex20x or eTrex30x devices and applied all the recommended power-saving settings.

Power Supply Options With Non-Rechargeable Batteries	4 Days of Navigation	8 Days of Navigation	12 Days of Navigation	16 Days of Navigation	20 Days of Navigation
Luxury Ultra-Light Option GPS & AA Lithium Batteries	30 g 2 x AA Lithium	60 g 4 x AA Lithium	90 g 6 x AA Lithium	120 g 8 x AA Lithium	150 g 10 x AA Lithium
	In addition, USB power bank for smartphone depending on habits and backup needs.				
Ultra-Light Option GPS & AA Alkaline Batteries	92 g 4 x AA Alkaline	138 g 6 x AA Alkaline	184 g 8 x AA Alkaline	276 g 12 x AA Alkaline	322 g 14 x AA Alkaline
	In addition, USB power bank for smartphone depending on habits and backup needs.				
Navigation Equipment Option With Rechargeable Batteries	4 Days of Range	8 Days of Range	12 Days of Range	16 Days of Range	20 Days of Range
Economy Light Option GPS & AA NiMH Batteries	175 g 4 x AA NiMH	275 g 8 x AA NiMH	375 g 12 x AA NiMH	475 g 16 x AA NiMH	575 g 20 x AA NiMH
	In addition, USB power bank for smartphone depending on habits and backup needs.				
Autarky & High-Power Option GPS & AA NiMH Bat. & Solar Panel	At least 475 g	At least 475 g	At least 475 g	At least 475 g	At least 475 g
Smartphones Only Option Smartphones & USB Power Bank	At least 120 g 1 x 5'000 mAh	At least 180 g 1 x 10'000 mAh	At least 360 g 2 x 10'000 mAh	At least 540 g 3 x 10'000 mAh	At least 540 g 3 x 10'000 mAh
	In addition, a second backup smartphone required.				

Table 116: Navigation Equipment Options (Weight depending on section length)

3.2 Digital Documentation of the GPT

3.2.1 Introduction

In this chapter I describe the structure of this digital track and waypoint documentation and how to obtain, install and use these files.

Documenting and publishing the tracks and waypoints digitally is currently the only practical solution. This method proved effective in recent years because it facilitates developing, updating, sharing and collaborating.

The digital track and waypoint documentation (in the following simply “track files”) evolved substantially during the recent years. Understanding the current structure and nomenclature of the track file is essential to prepare your adventure and to navigate on the GPT.

The track files consist primarily of tracks and waypoints. Tracks are route segments that are defined as continuous chains of geographic locations (points) without any divisions or junctions. So, a track is basically a single line that represents a piece of a route. To document the entire route network many tracks must be combined. Currently the GPT track file contains of more than 3'600 tracks with a combined length of more than 16'000 km.

Waypoints consist of a single geographic location with a specific relevance. To name a few examples: a waypoint can be a trail junction or route diversion, a water source in a particular dry area, a suitable spot to pitch a tent, a *puesto* or a settlement. As of now more than 3000 waypoints are incorporated in the GPT trail file.

3.2.2 Obtaining and Opening the Track Files

When I started publishing the GPT in 2014 I provided the track files within the Wikiexplora article for download. At this time, I considered it unnecessary and inappropriate to make any restrictions. Several events made me rethink and change this practice.

- The adventure company “Secret Compass” took two sections of the GPT, advertised them in 2017 as their “creation” and their commercial tour as the “first attempt” of this route. This route includes trails over private properties with a disputed right-of-way and is therefore not suitable for a commercial tour as this will jeopardize the current tolerance of individual hikers. The company “Secret Compass” did not bother when I made them aware of this conflict and the damage they may cause.
- Several hikers lacked the necessary cultural sensibility and essential language skills. This causes misunderstandings with the local population and land owners and can trigger a closure of routes to future hiking guests.
- Individual people started fundraising prominently using the name “Greater Patagonian Trail” without a proper understanding of the GPT. They campaigned with mission statements that simply do not fit to this informal route network, they failed their self-set goals, then lied about their achievements or did not even depart after asking for donations.
- A substantial part of the hikers that relied on the publication of the GPT provided little to no useful feedback and no GPS records to keep the documentation updated.

Therefore, I added in 2017 the Terms and Conditions for Using the Hiker’s Manual and the Trail Files. I’m fully aware that this provides not warranty against inappropriate use but it at least clarifies the conditions upfront and facilitates a clear response to inappropriate use.

The track files are now only provided on personal request by the author and remain free of charge. Read chapter [1.14 Code of](#)

[Conduct on the GPT on page 150](#) and [1.15 Terms and Conditions for Using the Hiker's Manual and the Track Files on page 153](#) to review the conditions and to understand why these conditions were put in place. Should you agree to these Terms and Conditions send an email to gpt.jan.dudeck@gmail.com 🌐 that expresses your consent and briefly outlines your plans. I will then provide a link where you can download the track files.

The various track files are packed in a single zip-file that is password protected. The password to unpack the zip-file is a 7-digit number. There are two ways to obtain the password.

Option 1: Print, read, fill and sign the [Declaration of Consent](#) 🌐 and send a scanned copy to gpt.jan.dudeck@gmail.com 🌐. If going for this option, then please send the filled and signed form when requesting access to the track files and describing your plans for the GPT.

Option 2: Calculate the password yourself! To do this read part 1 of this Hiker's Manual (chapter: Introduction and General Information from page 8 and 162) and record the seven Track File Unlock Codes that are all placed in selected key chapters. Each unlock code is a random 6-digit number. The sum of all seven unlock codes is the password to open the encrypted zip-file with the track files.

With this method I want to ensure that the most essential aspects of this route network are understood and that the Terms and Conditions are formally accepted.

Should you have overlooked some of these Unlock Codes when reading part 1 of the GPT Manual go back to the following chapters and read the following sections carefully:

- [1.2.3 The GPT Track Files on page 18](#)
- [1.7.1.2 Before you depart: Choose on page 50](#)
- [1.14 Code of Conduct on the GPT on page 150](#)
- [1.15 Terms and Conditions for Using the Hiker's Manual and the Track Files on page 153](#)

This system will appear unnecessary awkward to some prospective hikers but try to understand my dilemma before condemning this practice. By exploring and recording all these trails and packrafting routes I practically came into possession of a key that unlocks this fascinating region. It feels like holding a key to a building that I do not own, that is partially inhabited by others and that to my believe should have some public access. My dilemma is: If I leave the key sticking in the door I facilitate vandalism but hiding the key feels also wrong. Therefore, I want to share this key with prospective guests that understand and accept the rules of this house and that will act accordingly. Finding the right balance is a constant struggle that I don't take easy. Believe me!

It's a dilemma that I did not anticipate at the beginning. At first, I was just seeing a region to be explored. Later while exploring it I met the inhabitants, experienced the fragility of this land myself but I could also see the potential benefit of respectful visitors for this region and the residents.

Especially this early in the development of this route network it is essential that the inhabitants along the trail make positive experiences with the few hiking guests. Now a single misconduct can cause lasting damage. Only once the people on the trail look

back to a series of positive encounters they can discard an incidental inappropriate behaviour by an individual hiker as an exception. Therefore, a more restrictive sharing practice seems appropriate today but hopefully becomes dispensable in a few years.

I'm looking forward that the Chilean and Argentine government reactivate their effort to form national trail networks with an undisputed public right-of-way⁴⁸ and an appropriate oversight.

Chile announced in the year 2000 the creation of the “Sendero de Chile” that was supposed to span by 2008 the entire country. The trail was estimated to become 9000 km long and span from the northern tip of Chile all the way to Tierra del Fuego. After a huge effort in the first years the initiative died down and very little is left.

Argentina took around the year 2010 control of an informal trail initiative: the “Huella Andina”. An effort was made by the Ministry of Tourism to professionally promote this roughly 600 km long trail but barely any new sections were added in the following year. In 2018 the government officially cut all funds. Several sections are deteriorated and officially closed by now.

Hopefully my publication of the Greater Patagonian Trail shows the feasibility of a long-distance hiking trail network in the Andes and becomes a stimulus to make it piece by piece official. My vision is a public hiking trail network that links multiple nations with interconnected hiking routes for a wide range of experience levels and that provides the residents along the trails with recognition for their traditional way of life and additional sustainable income opportunities.

⁴⁸ This would finally relieve me from this awkward position of holding a key to something that I do not own.

3.2.3 File Formats

The digital track and waypoint documentation comes in two forms with two different file types for two different applications:

- A single file for **Google Earth** in the KML or **KMZ file format**⁴⁹
- Several digital maps for Garmin **GPS handheld devices** in the **IMG file format**

The KMZ track file for Google Earth is a single file that contains all tracks and waypoints and is the “master” document that I update continuously. This file can be viewed and edited in Google Earth and therefore serves to study the trail network and to plan a hike on a computer.

The file formats suitable for Google Earth (KML and KMZ files) are not compatible with many GPS devices and this includes Garmin handhelds. To upload user defined tracks and waypoints to Garmin devices the manufacturer suggests using GPX files but Garmin handhelds limit the number of user defined tracks to 200 tracks regardless of the storage size⁵⁰. Therefore, it is impossible to transfer the GPT track files with more than 3'600 tracks to a Garmin device using the suggested “standard method”.

It was an ordeal to work around this limitation, but I made it. Since 2016 I create at the start of each season digital maps for Garmin GPS handhelds in the IMG file format based on the latest update of the Google Earth master file. Using such IMG map

⁴⁹ KML and KMZ files are basically interchangeable. A KMZ file is the zipped (compressed) version of a KML file. Software that “digests” KML files normally “eats” KMZ files as well.

⁵⁰ Most Garmin GPS handhelds have a built-in limit of 200 user defined tracks regardless of the storage size. But the GPT track file contains currently more than 3600 tracks. This makes it impossible to load a significant part of the GPT route network at once onto a Garmin GPS even when converting first all data into a GPX file (the Garmin standard file format). Also the length of user defined tracks is limited to 10'000 points. Tracks that exceed this limit are simply cut off by the GPS device.

files comes with additional benefits:

- Using digital maps in the IMG file format facilitates the installation and the management of this information on a Garmin handheld. It's quite simple to copy a few map files and then selecting relevant maps to be displayed. In comparison exporting hundreds of tracks to a GPS and then selecting them one by one to make them visible or hide them is annoying.
- Map files in the IMG file format permit much more user defined map features i.e. different line types. I now use these features to make the GPT maps intuitively readable by packing more information into the track display.

I created 5 different maps to facilitate a selection of the applicable components of the route network:

- one map for hiking: **GPT Hiking Tracks**
- one map for packrafting: **GPT Packrafting Tracks** which include also all hiking routes
- one map with hiking exploration routes: **GPT Hiking Exploration Tracks**
- one map with packrafting exploration routes: **GPT Packrafting Exploration Tracks** including all hiking exploration routes
- one map with all waypoints: **GPT Waypoints** with all waypoints for hiking, packrafting and explorations

When loading just the applicable maps then only the relevant tracks will be displayed and irrelevant parts will not confuse users while navigating with a GPS device. This eliminates the risk that i.e. a hiker takes by accident a packrafting land route and ends up on a lake or river from where he is unable to continue without a boat.

The digital map with the GPT route network is best used together with a digital topographic map that displays the actual geography. Seeing just tracks and waypoints on an otherwise blank GPS screen can be misleading. The GPT route network needs the context of elevation lines, lakes and rivers, roads and towns to plan and navigate with confidence. Therefore, the digital maps with the GPT route network are “transparent” to be displayed on top of topographic map. This enables the combined use of multiple maps (topographic map in background, GPT route network maps on top of it in the foreground).

Such topographic maps for Garmin devices come also in the IMG file format and can be downloaded free of charge thanks to the collaborating effort of the Open Street Map (OSM) contributors. More to this subject later.

3.2.4 Installation of Track Files

Before you continue to read more about the track files you should install these files on your computer and your GPS device. Once installed you can cross-check what I’m explaining and this gives you the “Ahhh!” and “Yes!” moments that are essential to digest this admittedly nerdy topic.

3.2.4.1 Installation of Track Files on Google Earth on a Computer

Installing the KMZ file on a computer in Google Earth is straight-forward. Simply open the KMZ-file on your computer. It will automatically open in Google Earth if you have Google Earth or Google Earth Pro on your computer. If not, then download this free software first.

Doing the same on a smartphone is of little benefit. You might see the route network, but you can not analyse the tracks in detail as you cannot review the individual elements and select and deselect specific parts. So, use a computer to study the GPT route

network during your preparation.

Once you opened the track file on your computer in Google Earth move it from “Temporary Places” to “My Places” and start exploring the file. Tracks and waypoints are structured into folders and you can make specific elements visible or hide them by checking and unchecking the tag box. You can also see the names of all subfolder and all element. If you got to this point take your time and “play around” before your move on reading.

The meaning of the different track colours and the line widths is outlined in [Table 7: Satellite Image Line Codes on page 178](#).

3.2.4.2 Installing the Track Files on a Garmin GPS Device

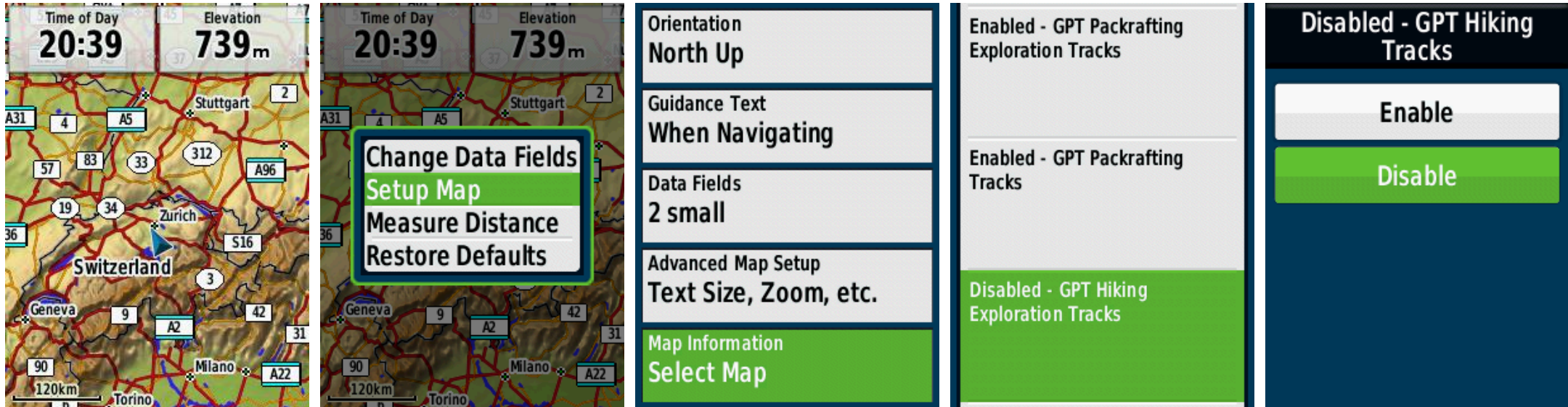
Installing the track files on a Garmin GPS Device is simple. But before you install the maps think well what maps are useful for you and install only these files. If you hike without packrafting, then there is no point in installing packrafting maps. If you do not want to explore questionable routes then do not install the exploration maps. In any case install the waypoint map that contains all waypoints for all forms of travel.

If you want to install all five maps then at least disable the irrelevant maps. Installing all five maps makes sense when combining hiking without a packraft and packrafting into one long journey with both forms of travel. So you should have either two or three maps installed or set visible (“Enabled”) at the same time but never all five maps.

Once you have the IMG files on your computer connect either the GPS device with a USB cable to your computer or remove the microSD card from the GPS device and put it with a microSD adapter in the SD card slot of your computer. Then copy the relevant

IMG map files into the “Garmin” folder on the microSD card. That’s all you need to do; just copy the files in the right folder.

Once the files are copied into the “Garmin” folder start your device and check if the copied GPT maps are activated. To do this open the map setup to verify if the maps are listed and make sure that the map status is correctly set. Then scroll to the Southern Cone and verify if the GPT route network is visible. Take now some “play time” with your GPS before reading on.



Pictures 136, 137, 138, 139 and 140: Map Setup on a Garmin eTrex30x

While you played with the track files in Google Earth and on your GPS you probably noticed that the same route network is displayed differently on both devices. There is a simple reason for it: colors that provide a good visibility and contrast on the

satellite images of Google Earth are less visible on a handheld GPS device. Also, current technology permits multiple line shapes on GPS handheld devices (i.e. dotted-, dashed- and arrow-lines) while Google Earth is limited to continuous lines with different line colors and different line widths only.

If you wonder what all the different colours and line types mean than you will find the answer in the following chapter [3.2.5 Track Classifications and Nomenclature on page 565](#). But before your get there install first a suitable topographic map on your GPS.

3.2.4.3 Downloading and Installing a Topographic Map on a Garmin GPS Device

Garmin offers topographic maps for Chile and the southern Andes but I can not recommend any of the these maps. These maps are of poor quality and costly (80 to 100 USD). The altitude lines are quite precise, but lakes and rivers are often incorrectly placed and some displayed trails and other features are occasionally inexistent or wrongly placed.

You get better maps free of charge thanks to the countless Open Street Maps contributors. Search here:

- <http://alternativaslibres.org/en/downloads.php> 🌐
- <http://www.gmaptool.eu/en/content/south-america-osm-topo-routable> 🌐

On alternativaslibres.org you download finished IMG files. Choose the “Topographic” maps as a “File to install on gps/navigator device” for Chile and Argentina. These maps include contour lines, topographic features like rivers, lakes and coast lines, the entire long-distance road network, street plans of cities and towns and many points of interest. Even some GPT trails are incorporated.

Copy these IMG map files on the microSD card in the “Garmin” folder like you copied the GPT track files before. When you restart your GPS device make sure to select in the maps options the topographic map file you want to use (“Enabled”) and to deselect the map files that you want to hide (“Disabled”). This feature permits using multiple maps that are beneficial in different situations. To minimize power consumption, I suggest having only one topographic map activated and all other topographic maps disabled.

The maps provided on gmaptool.eu must be installed differently. Read the instructions on this website to install the map “South America South OSM Topo” first on your computer in Garmin Basecamp. From Garmin Basecamp you can transfer the map onto your GPS. To transfer the map connect your GPS device first with a USB cable to your computer and then select in Basecamp in menu “Maps” the option “Install Maps”. This function will guide your step by step through the installation process.

Once you installed the GPT track files and the topographic maps on your GPS verify that all works fine. Then copy the “Garmin” folder with all files on a second backup microSD card. SD cards occasionally fail and carrying a replacement microSD card with everything correctly setup provides a backup without a noticeable weight penalty. Also should you loose your GPS you can purchase a replacement devise in Chile and the backup microSD card will work perfectly fine with a different devise as long as you use the recommended free topographic maps. Should you purchase the Garmin TOPO maps than these licensed maps work with a single device only (these licensed maps are enabled for a single device serial number and will not work on any other device).

Add example images.

3.2.4.4 Installing the Track Files on a Smartphone

To be issued.

3.2.5 Track Classifications and Nomenclature

To make educated route choices on this partly ample trail network and to understand what to expect I categorized all tracks in respect of track relevance, trail type, track reliability and track direction.

With the **track relevance** I distinguish between the regular route (the author's standard suggestion) and alternative options. The track relevance also informs what can be hiked and where a packraft is required. I have basically pre-selected two partly overlapping regular routes, one for hiking and one for packrafting. Also all remaining optional routes are either relevant for packrafting only or suitable for hiking and packrafting.

The **trail type** tells you where you walk on actual horse or hiking trails, what are minor and major roads and where you have to walk cross country or where to bush bash through vegetation. For packrafters I distinguish in addition between river, lake and fjord water routes.

On the **track reliability** you can recognize where you can follow a rather precise GPS track or where the GPS track serves for general orientation only and where you have to "find your own trail" or how one hiker put it: where you have to "seek your own adventure". This is the case when walking cross country or bush bashing without the possibility or necessity to follow a precise route. Routes that are not yet recorded by GPS and that need to be investigated are classified as investigation routes. For such routes the trail files provide only draft routes for general orientation and the hiker needs to try to find and follow a trail himself.

The **track direction** is relevant on water only because rivers can be rafted in one direction only. Practically all rivers are faster than you can paddle by packraft. Also some boat transfers are best done in one specific direction because the settler with the boat lives in a particular place making it easier to start the boat transfer at the settlers home. Using such a boat transfer in the opposite direction is not impossible but requires pre-arrangements.

All this information is abbreviated with short codes to create short names for each track. These abbreviations facilitate the display of this information on a small GPS screen. The line width, the line color and the line type display some of this information but not all. Therefore, understanding these codes is important to make educated selections of routes in the preparation phase before the hike. Once on the trail a competent user can quickly check what to expect on the next kilometers with a brief look on the GPS if he is familiar with the colour and line codes and the abbreviations.

A **track numbering code** is added with a @ symbol to create a unique individual track name for each track segment. This facilitates referencing to specific tracks and waypoints in descriptions and when providing feedbacks.

Below are five examples track names in read that become decipherable and conclusive with the detailed explanation later on.

RR-TL-V@06-46.0					
Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code		
RR: Regular Route	TL: Horse or Hiking Trail	V: Validated Route	06: Section GPT06	-	46.0: Track starts 46.0 km after section start
RP-MR-V@19-9.7					
Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code		
RP: Regular Packrafting Route	MR: Minor Road	V: Validated Route	19: Section GPT19	-	9.7: Track starts 9.7 km after section start
RH-TL-I@27H-7.4					
Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code		
RH: Regular Hiking Route	TL: Horse or Hiking Trail	I: Investigation Route	27H: Section GPT27H	-	7.4: Track starts 7.4 km after section start
OH-CC-A@19-D-#001					
Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code		
OH: Optional Hiking Route	CC: Cross Country	A: Approximate Route	19: Section GPT19	D: Variant D	#001: Track Number 1
OP-RI-1@22-05-#001					
Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code		
OP: Optional Packrafting Route	RI: River Packrafting	1: One-Way Route	22: Section GPT22	05: Option 5	#001: Track Number 1

Table 117: Example track names

3.2.6 Track Relevance

The first piece of information of the track name is the track relevance. The track relevance tells what is the regular route and what is an optional route and which routes are suitable for hiking and which routes are exclusively for packrafting.

The regular route is the normally recommended route that connects the section start and the section end with a balanced route. There are often more demanding optional routes and less attractive short cuts i.e. on roads. The regular route avoids both. It is what I consider a balanced compromise between beauty and difficulty. When following the regular route you are not on the easiest, shortest or fastest route but you walk mostly on scenic trails while evading the more difficult options.

Optional routes are i.e. ascents to summits that can be climbed without rock climbing gear or routes that make a detour over scenic pass or exposed plateau while the regular route follows a less demanding valley. Here you need to make your choice based on weather, your food reserves, timing and your desire to accept an extra challenge. If you are generally interested in such a detour you should plan for it in advance but the final call you best make while on the route.

Some adjacent sections are connected with optional routes that bypass the section end and start. Often these optional routes bypass also the easiest access to resupply. With sufficient food in your backpack these more direct connections between sections are often the better choice but only feasible with sufficient supplies for the following section.

For safety reasons I have also included optional bad weather and exit routes that get you out of the mountains to the next village or at least to the next road. These additional tracks are not recommended for hiking since they are often not particularly attractive but having these tracks on your GPS can save you in adverse conditions.

I have also incorporated investigation options and exploration options that are presumed routes that remain to be verified by experienced hikers or packrafters. More to these expedition or exploration routes later.

In the track file for Google Earth and the digital maps for GPS devices **Regular Routes** are symbolized by **Thicker** lines.

Optional Routes are shown as **Finer** lines.

The track relevance and function are abbreviated with a two-letter code. The first letter, an **R** or **O**, describes the relevance:

- **R...: Regular**
- **O...: Optional**

The second letter, an **H**, **P** or **R** codes the function:

- **...H: Hiking**
- **...P: Packrafting**
- **...R: Common Route for hiking and packrafting**

Therefore track names start with one of the five two-letter codes: **RR**, **RH**, **RP**, **OH** or **OP**. The two-letter code for (common) optional route (OR) is not used. Optional routes that are relevant for hiking and packrafting are optional hiking routes (OH) and included in both digital map sets; in the hiking maps and the packrafting maps.

3.2.6.1 Regular Routes

3.2.6.1.1 Regular Route (RR-...) Common for Hiking and Packrafting

The Regular Route is the normally recommended route where this recommendation coincides for hiking and packrafting.

Especially along the northern sections with hardly any packrafting you have generally just one Regular Route. Where the normally recommended route splits into a hiking and a packrafting branch there the Regular Route ends and a Regular Hiking Route and a Regular Packrafting Route commence.

RR-TL-V@06-46.0					
Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code		
RR: Regular Route	TL: Horse or Hiking Trail	V: Validated Route	06: Section GPT06	-	46.0: Track starts 46.0 km after section start

Table 118: Example track name

3.2.6.1.2 Regular Hiking Route (RH-...)

The Regular Hiking Route is the normally recommended route for hikers without packrafting gear.

Hikers without packrafting gear need to pay attention to follow the regular hiking route since the division between the hiking and packrafting route often takes place before the route actually reaches water. If a hiker by accident takes a packrafting route he may continue for some time on nice trails until he will eventually be stopped by a river or a lake.

The hiking version of the digital maps for GPS (IMG files) contain only routes that are relevant for hiking to avoid such errors.

Packrafting routes that are irrelevant are not included at all in the hiking maps. Therefore make sure to load only the maps that are applicable for you.

The packrafting version of the digital maps for GPS (IMG files) contain all regular hiking routes as optional hiking routes since these routes can be hiked by packrafters if i.e. the weather does not permit a lake or fjord crossing.

RH-TL-I@27H-7.4					
Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code		
RH: Regular Hiking Route	TL: Horse or Hiking Trail	I: Investigation Route	27H: Section GPT27H	-	7.4: Track starts 7.4 km after section start

Table 119: Example track name

3.2.6.1.3 Regular Packrafting Route (RP-...)

The **Regular Packrafting Route** is the normally recommended route for packrafters with packrafting gear.

Regular packrafting routes include land routes to lakes, rivers or fjords and routes on water. So regular packrafting routes are not just tracks on water.

The regular packrafting route was generally chosen to maximize the distance on water and to minimize the distance on land where the packrafting gear needs to be hauled by backpack. Therefore also shorter water sections are included in the regular packrafting route where it would be actually faster to continue hiking without paddling (in particular if considering the time required to inflate and load the packraft and to repack everything in the backpack after paddling). This preference was applied because the GPT was

developed to experience Patagonia profoundly and not to cross this region quickly. Therefore the regular packrafting route is not optimized for speed but for diversity and his includes also shorter packrafting sections.

Regular packrafting routes are not included in the hiking map if these routes are not relevant for hiking.

RP-MR-V@19-9.7					
Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code		
RP: Regular Packrafting Route	MR: Minor Road	V: Validated Route	19: Section GPT19	-	9.7: Track starts 9.7 km after section start

Table 120: Example track name

3.2.6.2 Optional and Alternative Routes

3.2.6.2.1 Optional Hiking Route (OH-...)

Optional Hiking routes are all routes that may be suitable for hikers and that are not regular routes.

No difference is made if an optional route is more difficult or less demanding than the regular route and what purpose this optional route has. This needs to be concluded from other part of the GPT documentation or the topographical map.

Some optional hiking routes are minor variations along the regular route while other optional hiking routes are substantial detours that require additional supplies. So check carefully your choice when deviating from the regular hiking route.

In the packrafting map all regular hiking routes are displayed as optional hiking routes.

OH-CC-A@19-D-#001					
Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code		
OH: Optional Hiking Route	CC: Cross Country	A: Approximate Route	19: Section GPT19	D: Variant D	#001: Track Number 1

Table 121: Example track name

3.2.6.2.2 Optional Packrafting Route (OP-...)

Optional Packrafting routes are additional routes that may be relevant for packrafting only and that are not regular packrafting routes.

Optional packrafting routes include land routes and water routes.

Again, no difference is made if an optional route is more difficult or less demanding than the regular route and what purpose this optional route has.

Also some optional packrafting routes are minor variations along the regular packrafting route while other optional packrafting routes are substantial detours that require additional supplies. So check careful your choice when deviating from the regular route.

Optional packrafting routes are only included in the packrafting maps and not included in the hiking maps.

OP-RI-1@22-05-#001					
Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code		
OP: Optional Packrafting Route	RI: River Packrafting	1: One-Way Route	22: Section GPT22	05: Option 5	#001: Track Number 1

Table 122: Example track name

3.2.7 Trail Types

The second piece of information of the track name is the trail type that tells you what you are walking or paddling on.

3.2.7.1 Hiking Routes on Land

3.2.7.1.1 Horse or Hiking Trail (...-TL-...)

When planning the Greater Patagonian Trail the first choice were the horse **Trail**s that traverse the remote valleys and mountain passes in the heart of the Andes close to the border between Chile and Argentina. Most of these trails are created and maintained by local herdsmen to drive livestock to their summer pastures and by settlers that live in the solitary of the Andes.

Along these trails practically no signposts indicate directions and only few trail markers facilitate route finding. Tracks quite often split up and rejoin and in such locations it is often unclear what is the main trail and what is just a cattle treading. Such trails occasionally peter out and disappear in particular where they cross open terrain and where neither the landscape nor the vegetation constrain riding or walking.

On many of these trails a customary right-of-way applies but some trails cross private land. Often it cannot be recognized what is

the case. Gates and fences occasionally close these trails. This does not necessarily indicate the entrance or exit of a private property because gates and fences over trails are primarily set up to keep animals either in and out. Keep all gates exactly as you found them, either close them again or leave them open.

A lot of the incorporated trails are "opportunistic trails". This means, that these trails do not provide the most efficient connection but that routes were chosen that minimize the burden of building and maintaining these trails. This often results in detours each time the route is traveled compared to a hypothetical "optimized" route. In example trails may climb up a ridge simply to avoid overgrown areas further down. If sediment deposits next to a river eliminate the need to cut a trail through the forest, than the visible trail disappears and leads over these sediments even if they are occasionally flooded and more cumbersome to walk on. If there are rocks blocking the leveled route, than the trail climbs up and down just to circumvent these obstacles. In barely any place trails are built with brute force but are "opportunistic" in this sense.

Keep in mind that locals rarely ever walk; they move on horseback. All the physical effort that ascents and descents require are done by the horses. Therefore some trails involve a lot of "pointless up and down" simply because it meant fewer burden when initially creating the trail. Also river crossings are less hassle on horseback; it's not the riders feet that get wet. For this reason some trails switch frequently the river sides just to avoid minor obstacles that are located on alternating sides of the river.

In the Alps and other frequently visited mountain ranges some very scenic panorama trails were build that sneak on a mostly constant altitude through the mountains to attract tourists onto scenic trails for an effortless walk. I'm not aware of any such trail in the Andes. Locals established trails solely to get from one place to another; never to have an enjoyable walk. But where a high altitude trail on a ridge above the tree line provides a good connection there you find such routes; not to please you but because

they happen to be the simplest option.

Only in a few national parks such former horse trails became official hiking trails with occasional signposts and trail markers to keep visitors on the approved routes.

RH-TL-I@27H-7.4					
Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code		
RH: Regular Hiking Route	TL: Horse or Hiking Trail	I: Investigation Route	27H: Section GPT27H	-	7.4: Track starts 7.4 km after section start

Table 123: Example track name

Add example images.

3.2.7.1.2 Minor and Two-Track Roads (...-MR-...)

The second choice were rarely traveled **Minor Roads** and two-track roads. Such minor roads typically provide access to isolated settlements or villages without attracting any transit traffic.

Until recently some of these villages could only be reached on horse or by food. Regional governments try to improve the living conditions in these remote settlements by upgrading the traditional horse trails into minor dirt roads. This might be sad for hikers but since we are only guests we have no reason to complain.

Other routes that are categorized as minor roads are simple two-track roads (NOT two-lane roads!) which are basically car tracks

that formed when locals were driving their all-terrain vehicles to their homes and outposts without building a proper road. Also forest and logging roads are put in this category of minor roads.

These minor roads may be private or public and you often cannot recognize what is the case. Gates and fences that close these minor roads may indicate the entrance or exit of a private property but are primarily set up to keep animals either in and out. Keep all gates exactly as you found them, either close them again or leave them open. As long as you walk these roads and you do not enter with a vehicle settlers may ask you what you are doing there but rarely complain.

Some of these minor roads became neglected and unmaintained and are now impassable for vehicles. But hikers can still use such deteriorated roads if they don't mind climbing over fallen trees and seek their way through washed out parts.

Many hiking trails in Europe would fall in this rather wide category of minor roads since a good part of the hiking trails in Europe are occasionally used by forestry and agricultural vehicles.

RP-MR-V@19-9.7					
Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code		
RP: Regular Packrafting Route	MR: Minor Road	V: Validated Route	19: Section GPT19	-	9.7: Track starts 9.7 km after section start

Table 124: Example track name

Add example images.

3.2.7.1.3 Cross Country Routes (...-CC-...)

In some areas the Greater Patagonian Trail crosses through open terrain without a visible trail. Some of these routes lead through steep and exposed terrain above the tree line but do not require technical climbing. These **Cross Country** routes often belong to the finest parts of the Greater Patagonian Trail because they provide access into barely visited areas high up in the Patagonian Andes with wide open views.

In this cross country terrain hikers should seek their own way following the approximate GPS track without feeling too bound to the track. The tracks in cross country terrain are often straight lines to indicate only the approximate direction and not to show a particular path that needs to be followed precisely. Hikers must apply (as always!) their own judgment to avoid obstacles on such cross country routes. Towards the end of a cross country route hikers need to return to the GPS track to i.e. find the trail head at the entrance into a forest or overgrown area.

The cross country routes do not pass very dense vegetation.

OH-CC-A@19-D-#001					
Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code		
OH: Optional Hiking Route	CC: Cross Country	A: Approximate Route	19: Section GPT19	D: Variant D	#001: Track Number 1

Table 125: Example track name

Add example images.

3.2.7.1.4 Bush Bashing Routes (...-BB-...)

On a few shorter stretches you need to hike through overgrown terrain and do some **Bush Bashing**. In some parts this cannot be avoided because old unused trails became overgrown or simply no trail was ever made.

For someone that is used to hike fast and efficient this might be frustrating but patient hikers will find their way step by step even in this challenging terrain. A machete is normally not required to cross this terrain but if you carry one you might use it occasionally to cut some thorny branches and twigs.

RR- BB -A@23-48.5					
Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code		
RR: Regular Route	BB: Bush Bashing	A: Approximate Route	T23: Section GPT23	-	48.5: Track starts 48.5 km after section start

Table 126: Example track name

Add example images.

3.2.7.1.5 Primary and Paved Roads (...-PR-...)

Public roads with transit traffic were avoided wherever possible. On such primary and paved roads you may find some moderate traffic but they are safe to hike. If you do not insist in connecting footsteps you may try to hitch-hike on these primary roads. Some drivers will even stop without being asked and offer you a ride as this is part of the back-country culture in this region. Some of these primary roads are also occasionally served by public transportation. Best ask people along the road if you wish to “fast forward” on these less attractive trail sections to spend more time on scenic routes.

RR-PR-V@01-0.0					
Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code		
RR: Regular Route	PR: Primary Road	V: Validated Route	T01: Section GPT01	-	0.0: Section start

Table 127: Example track name

Add example images.

3.2.7.2 Ferries

3.2.7.2.1 Ferry and Boat Transfer Routes (...-FY-...)

There are several lakes along the route that cannot be walk around on a suitable hiking route. When thru-hiking the entire trail along the regular route in two or three hiking seasons than you need to cross at least 4 lakes by ferry and you require 4 boat transfers over rivers and lakes. So, you cannot walk the entire length of the trail without any non-motorized travel.

Also if you opt to packraft the GPT you will need to take at least 3 ferries when attempting a multi-season thru-hike along the regular packraft route. Some lakes and fjords along the packraft route are simply too big and exposed for such a small boat and only a daredevil would throw himself into these potentially suicidal waters.

This might be bad news for someone that chases for a record but for hikers and packrafters that seek to experience Patagonia these ferry and boat transfers are delights along the route.

In some cases you can take a regular ferry that operates according to a published schedule while in other cases you need to

arrange your personal boat transfer with a settler that lives along the route. To arrange such personal boat transfers some Spanish skills are essential.

RR-FY-2@34H-0.0					
Track Relevance	Trail Type	Track Reliability	Track Numbering Code		
RR: Regular Route	FY: Ferry	2: Two-Way Route	34H: Section GPT34H	-	0.0: Section start

Table 128: Example track name

Add example images.

3.2.7.3 Packrafting Routes on Water

Wherever feasible the Greater Patagonian Trail incorporates lake crossings, calm river downstream floats and even paddling on fjords with a packraft. When not carrying such a light-weight inflatable boat you have to follow the hiking route otherwise you will end up on a river or lake shore without being able to continue walking.

When you take the packraft route and the weather does not permit paddling then some but not all of these water sections can be bypassed on foot, by ferry or with private boat transfers. Therefore plan with additional reserves when taking the packraft route.

3.2.7.3.1 River Packrafting (...-RI-...)

The incorporated **R**iver sections are mostly relative clam flat water floats and do not require serious white-water paddling. But along these rivers packrafting sections you may encounter some minor rapids. In most places you can land on a river beach

before and either walk around the rapid or take them by packraft after inspecting them carefully. The longest river packrafting section is on the Río Palena and permits you and unbroken 180 km water ride.

When taking the packraft route make very sure that you leave the river where indicated and that you do not pass the last exit point even if the water looks still calm. Otherwise mortal rapids further downstream may crush you.

The two-letter-code for **R**iver packrafting is **RI**.

3.2.7.3.2 Lake Packrafting (...-LK-....)

Along the entire route are more than 50 **La**Kes that can be packrafted. The lake paddle sections are up to 25 km long. The majority of the lake crossings are oriented in the typical wind direction. We carry a sail that we open on lakes when we have favorable wind and we can recommend such a sail to every packrafter on the GPT. But if the wind is not with you then you may be forced to wait or take an alternative route therefore plan with sufficient reserves when taking the packraft route.

The two-letter-code for **La**Ke Packrafting is **LK**.

3.2.7.3.3 Fjord Packrafting (...-FJ-...)

A few **F**Jords in northern and central Patagonia are incorporated in the regular packraft route or can be paddled when exploring some of the more demanding packrafting options. Here you will depend highly on the wind and the tides and precaution is needed to not venture into these waters in adverse conditions.

Tracks on **FJ**ords contain the abbreviation **FJ** in the track name.

3.2.8 Track Reliability and Travel Direction

The third piece of information of the track name is the track reliability of land routes or the track direction of water routes.

3.2.8.1 Track Reliability of Routes on Land

3.2.8.1.1 Validated Land Route (...-V)

Validated routes are tracks that have been verified either with a GPS record or that are clearly visible on satellite images. On such routes a hiker can be reasonable confident that the track is rather precise. But this does not guarantee a trouble-free hike since previously recorded routes can overgrow over time or get closed by the owner of the land. It only means that the hiker should attempt to stay on the verified track and that there is normally no good reason to look for a better route in the vicinity of the track.

After four years of planning routes with satellite images and verifying my own planning by hiking these routes I learned to read satellite images. By closely looking at satellite images (ideally multiple images taken at different times of the same region!) I can now be pretty confident to either recognize a trail or a road or an unobstructed cross country route or to recognize that that satellite images are insufficient to reliably plan a route (i.e. where a dense forest perfectly hides existing trails).

Therefore I do not always regard a GPS record as more reliable than a route planned with satellite images. It really depends on the terrain. In open terrain with numerous faint trails and cattle treadings a route planned with satellite images is normally better than a “ground-truthed” GPS record. The reason is very simple: two pairs of eyes that hover 1.6 m above the ground see much

less than a state-of-the-art satellite that scans the land nearly vertical from far above. A searching hiker can simply not look ahead over a hill and may pick the wrong cattle treading. But in a dense forest only a “ground-truthed” route that was recorded by GPS is reliable. Therefore I do not copy GPS records straight into GPT trail file but double-check them with satellite images and correct the tracks if needed based on years of experience reading satellite images and reviewing GPS records.

The One-Letter-Code for **Validated** routes is **V**.

3.2.8.1.2 Approximate Land Route (...-A)

On nearly 10% of the regular route hikers need to walk cross country or bush bash without following a clearly visible trail. Here it would be stupid trying to stay precisely on the track indicated by GPS. In these areas the GPS provides only an approximate route and hikers need to “seek their own adventure” as Bethany and Lauren described it. Depending on the snow cover or smaller landscape features like smaller canyons or rocky areas it might actually be impossible to follow precisely the track. Here hikers need to rely on their own route-finding-instincts checking only occasionally the GPS to not get too far of the track.

Cross Country and Bush Bashing tracks contain the abbreviation **A** like **Approximate** in the track name.

3.2.8.1.3 Investigation Land Route (...-I)

A small fraction of the regular route and many of the optional routes have not been verified yet. Either people have hiked these routes without recording them by GPS or I have rather reliable information that a certain route exists but I’m unable to precisely plan the tracks with satellite images alone. Such routes are investigation routes.

Here hikers can be reasonable confident that a walkable connection exists but the GPS does not display the precise route. On investigation routes hikers need to fully rely on their trail finding skills and should use the waypoints along the investigation route or the next verified track as reference points for their investigation.

On investigation routes it is essential that hikers record their investigation by GPS to fill the remaining gaps of the GPT with validated tracks. Any GPS record is useful in particular when accompanied with a description. Combining GPS records from several hikers often reveals the best route in particular if the investigation was done in opposite directions. On investigation routes your contribution matters most.

Such Investigation routes can be recognized on the One-Letter-Code **I** in the track name.

3.2.8.2 Travel Direction of Ferry and Packrafting Routes on Water

3.2.8.2.1 Two-Way Water Route (...-2)

Lakes, rivers and fjords are perfectly visible on satellite images. Therefore water routes can be planned very well with these images and often a precise route is anyway not required i.e. when crossing a lake or a fjord by packraft.

But there is one thing that a packrafter must know: the flow direction of the rivers! The flow of most rivers exceeds the paddling speed of a packraft therefore paddling upstream is not an option, at least not for longer distances. This often determines the travel direction of the packrafting sections and this information is also in the track name and displayed in the electronic map for GPS.

Most lakes and fjords can be paddled in either direction. The same applies to ferries that follow a set route and run on schedule

going forward and backward between two or more ports. This are therefore Two-Way water routes.

On some lakes and fjords a particular travel direction might be preferable when packrafting due to the predominant wind direction but this does not mean that one direction is mandatory.

Two-Way water routes contain a **2** in the track name.

3.2.8.2.2 One-Way Water Routes (...-1)

As outlined above most incorporated packrafting routes on rivers are One-Way water routes because they are feasible in one direction only.

The same applies to some boat transfers. On some lakes and rivers settlers can ferry hikers over a lake or along a river. As these settlers live in a particular place arranging such a boat transfer is a lot easier in one direction. This does not mean that it is impossible to take this route in the opposite direction but pre-arrangements must be made. To avoid nasty surprises such boat transfers are named and displayed as One-Way routes.

One-Way water routes have a **1** in the track name.

3.2.9 Exploration Route (EXP-...)

While planning and exploring the Greater Patagonian Trail in the last 5 years I “discovered” potential other routes without investigating them. I either spotted promising connections on satellite images but more often settlers along the route and other hikers

and packrafters told me about such options.

These exploration options and sections are more demanding if compared with [Investigation Routes](#). Also for many of these exploration options it remains to be verified if a traverse is indeed feasible. On these exploration routes it is quite likely that a traverse attempt needs to be aborted i.e. when an old trail became completely overgrown or when consistently strong wind prevents you from packrafting. Attempting to traverse such an exploration route is therefore rather an expedition than a hike. Plenty of food reserves should be carried, timing should be generous and returning halfway is a likely scenario. Caution is more relevant than ambition when attempting such exploration options.

Some of these exploration routes are best attempted in a specific direction. It is advisable to start closer to the critical point where a hiker may be forced to turn around. I i.e. prefer to get stuck in dense vegetation after two days than to get to such a point after a week of hiking in difficult terrain. This shortens the backtrack. On some exploration section it is nearly impossible to return on the same route as the route contains downstream river floats. Here it is advisable to verify the exit first before attempting a traverse.

If you consider investigating such an expedition route please contact me. I can share my knowledge about such routes and can outline how I would explore this particular option or section.

EXPedition or **EXPl**oration routes have an additional prefix in front of the track name: **EXP**.

3.2.10 Track Display in Google Earth and on the GPS

Tracks are displayed in Google Earth and on the GPS as lines. The line width, the line color and the line style were chosen to display the most relevant information to these tracks.

The regular routes are shown as wider lines while the optional routes are finer lines. This facilitates following the regular route and not getting confused by the numerous options while navigating on the trail with GPS.

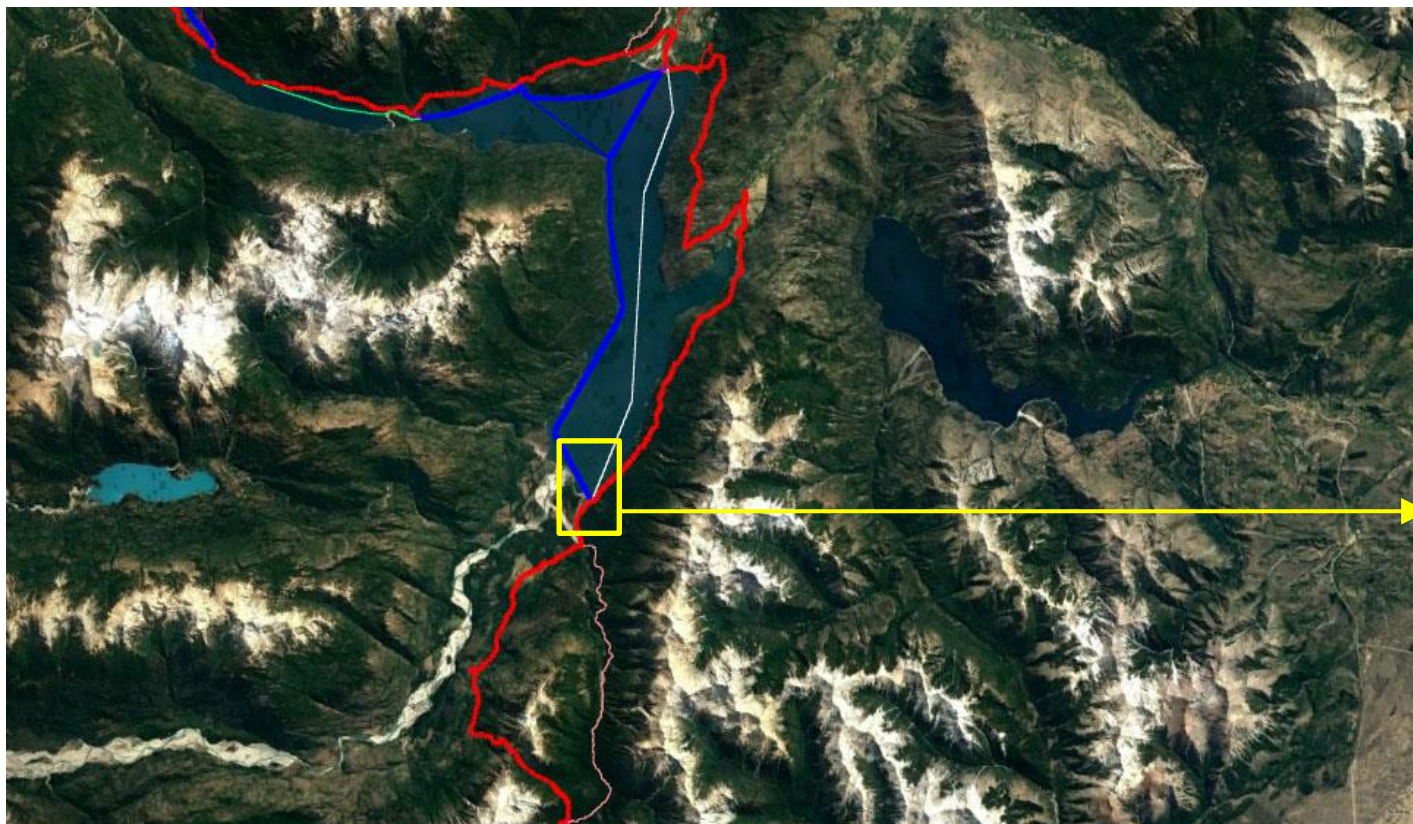
The line colors were chosen to provide the best possible contrast to the rather dark satellite images and the often white background of the topographic map on the GPS screen. The quite different color patterns of the satellite images and the topographic maps make it impractical to use the same color codes in Google Earth and on the GPS.

Another difference between Google Earth and GPS are the available options for displayable line styles. Currently Google Earth supports only simple solid lines of different width and different colors while a Garmin GPS can display i.e. dotted, dashed or arrowed lines. This is an excellent feature to display more information to each route by using corresponding line styles. I.e. arrows are perfect to display the orientation of One-Way tracks.

Below you find a legend to the applied line width, line colors and line styles. If the first page of the table leaves you confused move on to the sample screen shots that follow. There you see actual track displays in Google Earth and on a Garmin GPS screen and some explaining words to the appearance of the various tracks on the different devices. See also [Table 7: Satellite Image Line Codes on page 178](#).

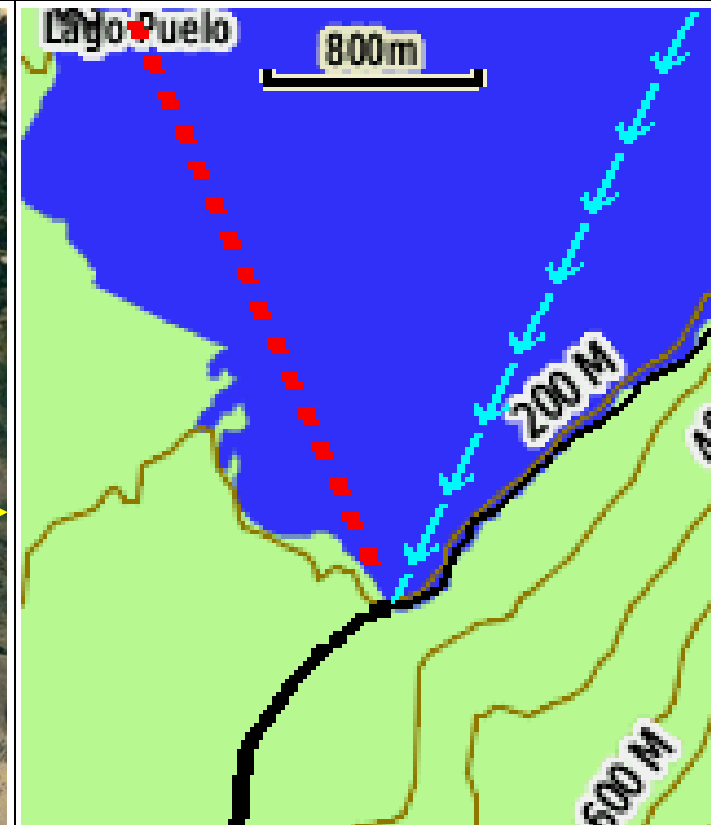
Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS			
Track Relevance and Function		Google Earth	GPS Hiking Maps GPS Packrafting Maps
RR	Regular Route	Thick Lines	Thick Lines
RH	Regular Hiking Route		Fine Lines
RP	Regular Packrafting Route		Not displayed Thick Lines
OH	Optional Hiking Route	Fine Lines	Fine Lines
OP	Optional Packrafting Route		Not displayed
Trail Types		Google Earth	GPS Hiking Map GPS Packrafting Map
BB	Bush Bashing Routes	Hiking Land Routes (RR, RH, OH): Red Lines (Verified and Approximate) or Rose Lines (Investigation) Packrafting Route on Land (RP, OP): Violet Lines (Verified and Approximate) or Light Violet Lines (Investigation)	All Hiking and Packrafting Routes on Land: Black Lines Note that packrafting routes are only displayed on the packrafting maps therefore it is not required to use different line colors like done with the single file for Google Earth.
CC	Cross Country Route		
TL	Horse or Hiking Trail		
MR	Minor and Two-Track Roads		
PR	Primary and Paved Roads	White Lines	Light Blue Lines
FY	Ferry and Boat Transfer Routes		
RI	River Packrafting		
LK	Lake Packrafting		
FJ	Fjord Packrafting	Blue Lines	not displayed All Packrafting Routes on Water: Red Lines
Track Reliability and Direction		Google Earth	GPS Hiking Map GPS Packrafting Map
V	Validated Land Route	Red Lines (RR, RH, OH) or Violet Lines (RP, OP)	Solid Lines
A	Approximate Land Route		Dotted Lines
I	Investigation Land Route	Rose Lines or Light Violet Lines	Dashed Lines
2	Two-Way Water Route	White Lines (FY) or Blue Lines (RI, LK, FJ)	Dotted Lines
1	One-Way Water Route		Arrowed Lines

Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS



Picture 141: Google Earth Screen Shoot

Note: Different colors were selected to display the same item in Google Earth and on GPS devices to archive optimal contrasts. This might be confusing at first but becomes beneficial when regularly used. One-way and two-way water routes are not differentiated in Google Earth but on GPS maps.



Picture 142: Garmin GPS Screen Shoot

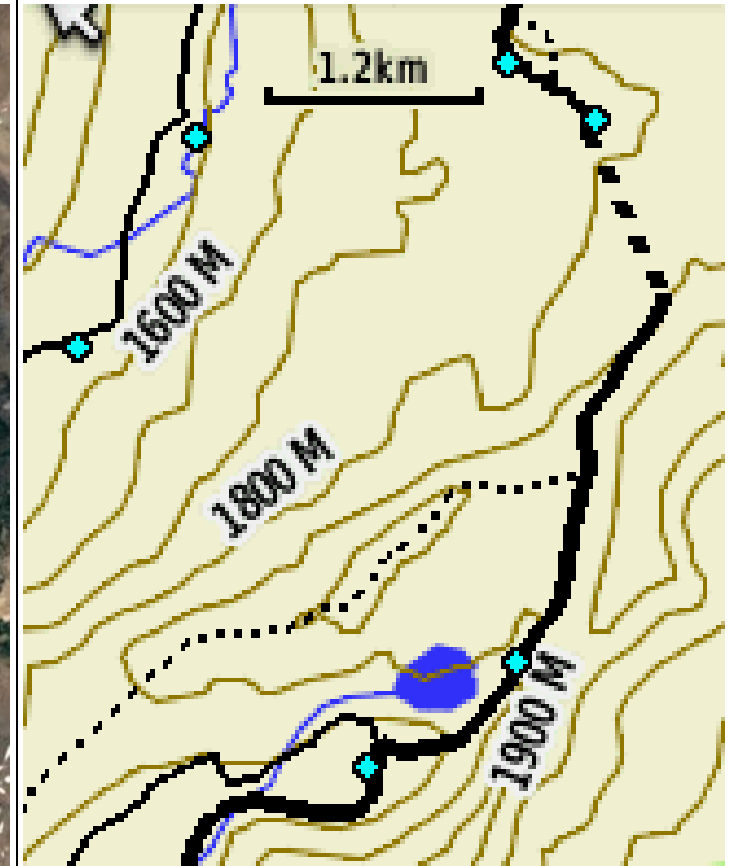
Note: Boat transfer is one-way since only in one direction easily to be arranged. Packrafting on lake is two-way since feasible in both directions.

Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS



Picture 143: Google Earth Screen Shoot

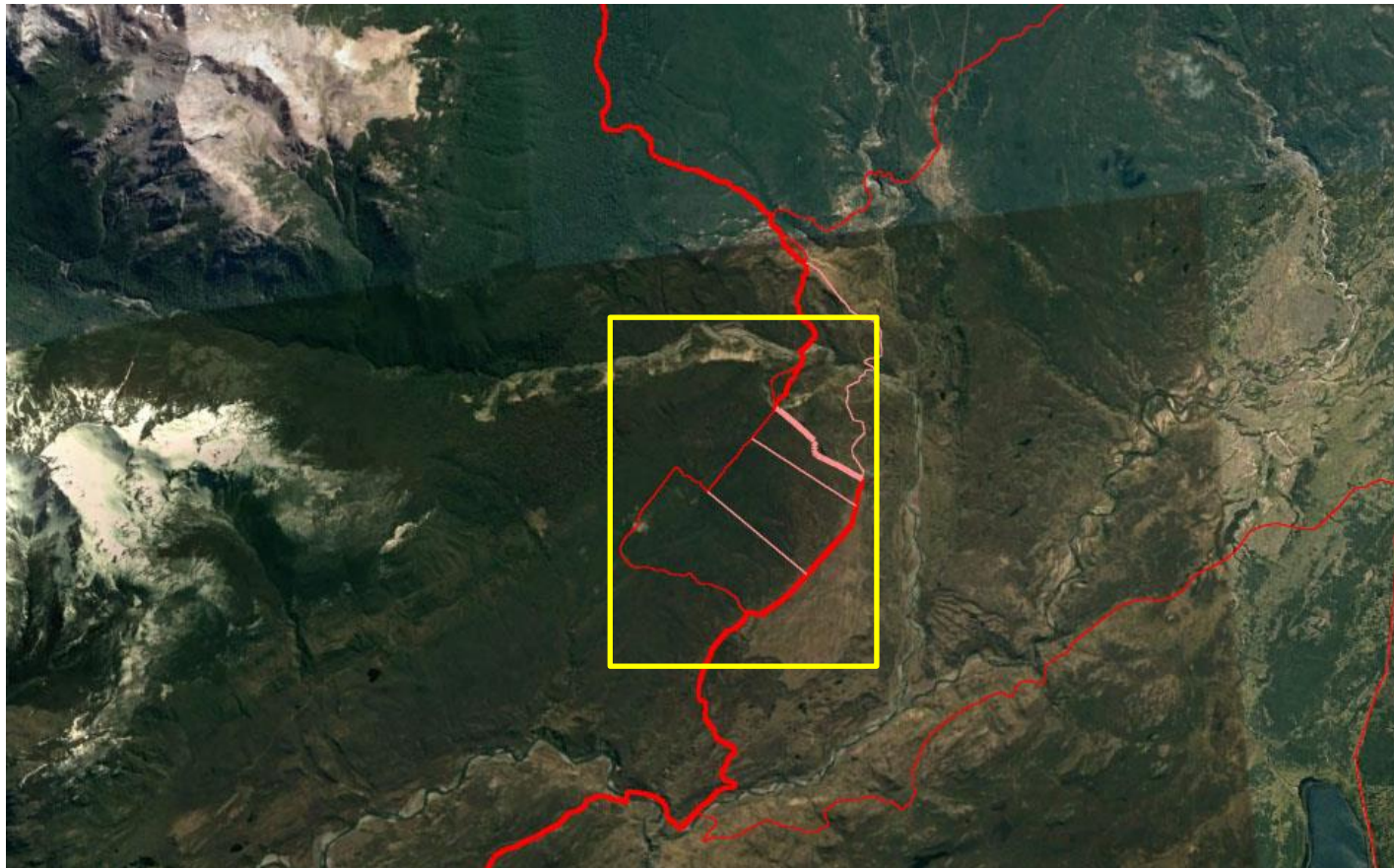
Note: Regular routes are thicker in both displays (Google Earth and GPS). Optional routes are finer lines in both displays. Verified and approximate routes on land are red solid lines.



Picture 144: Garmin GPS Screen Shoot

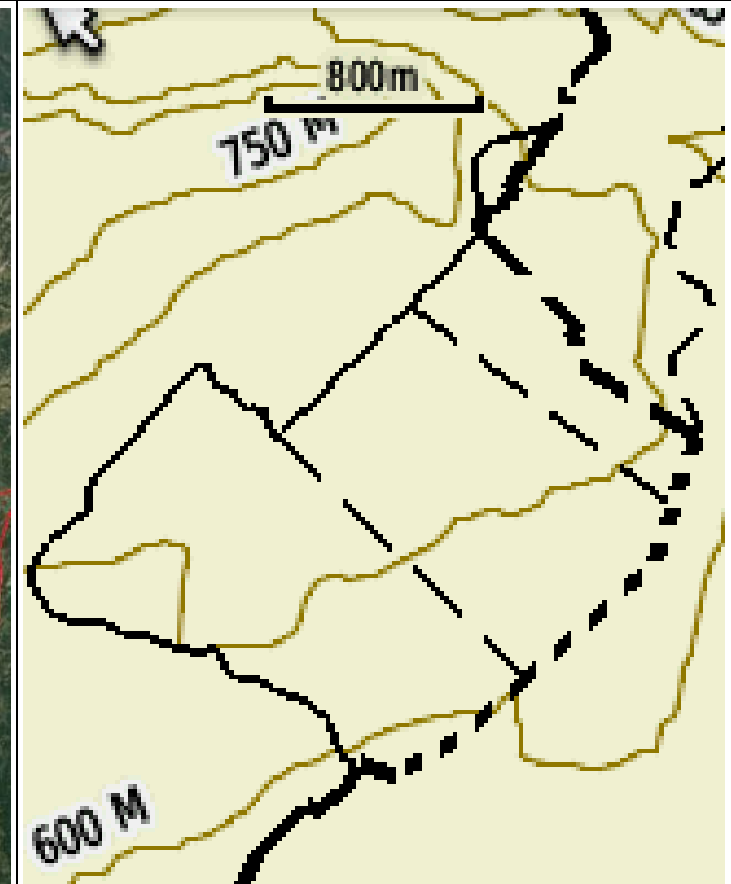
Note: Land routes are black. Approximate cross-country routes are displayed as dotted lines.

Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS



Picture 145: Google Earth Screen Shoot

Note: Investigation routes are rose and differentiated from verified and approximate routes.



Picture 146: Garmin GPS Screen Shoot

Note: Investigation routes are dashed lines.

Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS



Picture 147: Google Earth Screen Shoot

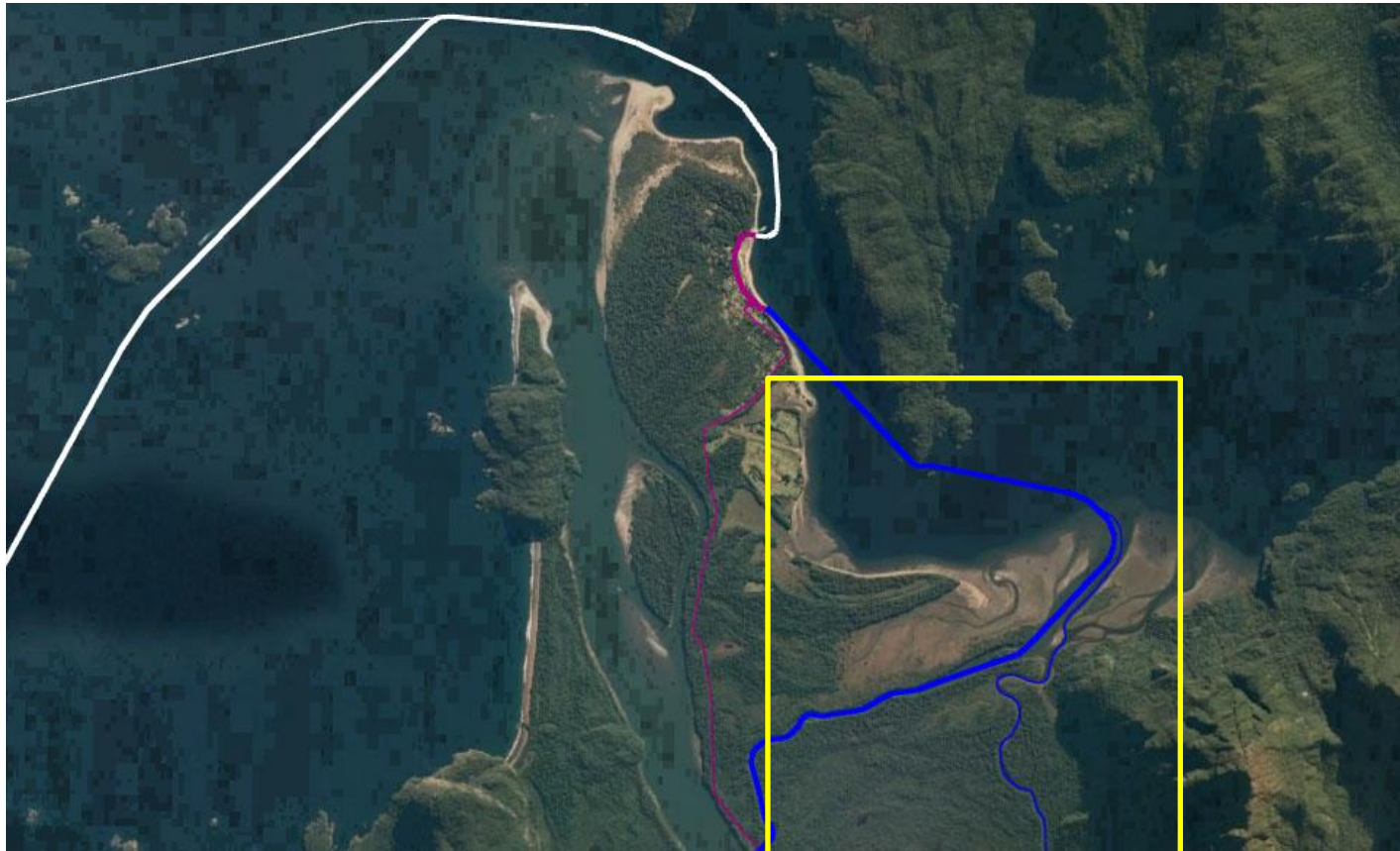
Note: Ferry and boat transfer routes are white. Land routes that are exclusively relevant for packrafting are violet.



Picture 148: Garmin GPS Screen Shoot

Note: Ferry and boat transfer routes are light blue. All land routes are black.

Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS








Picture 149: Google Earth Screen Shoot

Note: Packrafting routes on water are blue. One-way and two-way water routes are not differentiated in the Google Earth display.

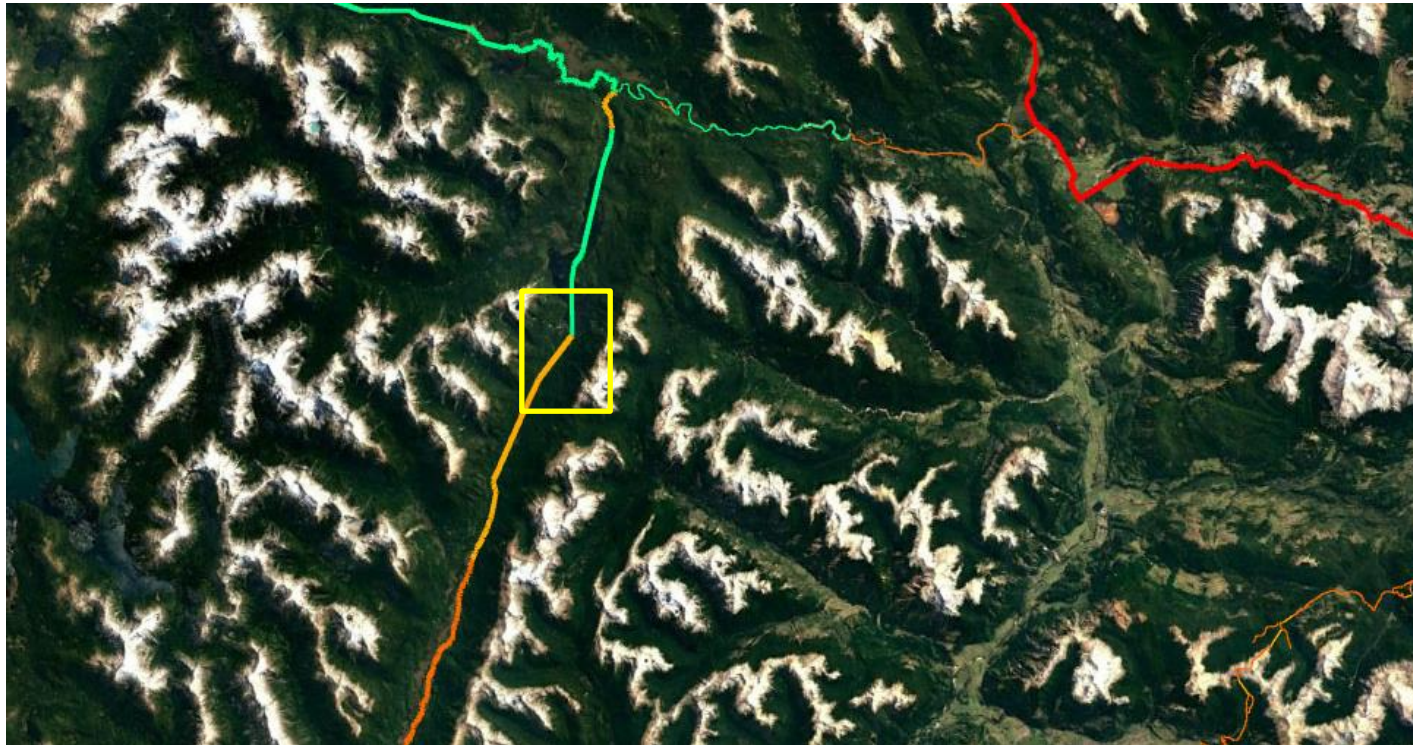


Picture 150: Garmin GPS Screen Shoot

Note: Packrafting routes on water are red. One-Way routes are displayed as arrowed lines.

Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS				
Exploration Routes		Google Earth	GPS Hiking Maps	GPS Packrafting Maps
EXP-RR	Exploration Regular Route	Thick Lines	Thick Lines	Thick Lines
EXP-RH	Exploration Regular Hiking Route			Fine Lines
EXP-RP	Exploration Regular Packrafting Route		<i>Not displayed</i>	Thick Lines
EXP-OH	Exploration Optional Hiking Route	Fine Lines	Fine Lines	Fine Lines
EXP-OP	Exploration Optional Packrafting Route		<i>Not displayed</i>	
Trail Types		Google Earth	GPS Hiking Map	GPS Packrafting Map
BB	Bush Bashing Routes	Exploration Land Routes: Orange Lines (Validated and Approximate) or Light Orange (Investigation) Same display of Packrafting and Hiking Exploration Routes on Land.	Exploration Routes on Land: Violet Lines Note that packrafting routes are only displayed on the packrafting maps.	
CC	Cross Country Route			
TL	Horse or Hiking Trail			
MR	Minor and Two-Track Roads			
PR	Primary and Paved Roads			
FY	Ferry and Boat Transfer Routes	White Lines	Light Blue Lines	
RI	River Packrafting	Green Lines	not displayed	Packrafting Exploration Routes on Water: Light Violet (Magenta, Pink)
LK	Lake Packrafting			
FJ	Fjord Packrafting			
Track Reliability and Direction		Google Earth	GPS Hiking Map	GPS Packrafting Map
V	Validated Land Route	Orange Lines	Solid Lines	
A	Approximate Land Route		Dotted Lines	
I	Investigation Land Route	Light Orange Lines	Dashed Lines	
2	Two-Way Water Route	White Lines (FY) or	Dotted Lines	
1	One-Way Water Route	Green Lines (RI, LK, FJ)	Arrowed Lines	

Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS



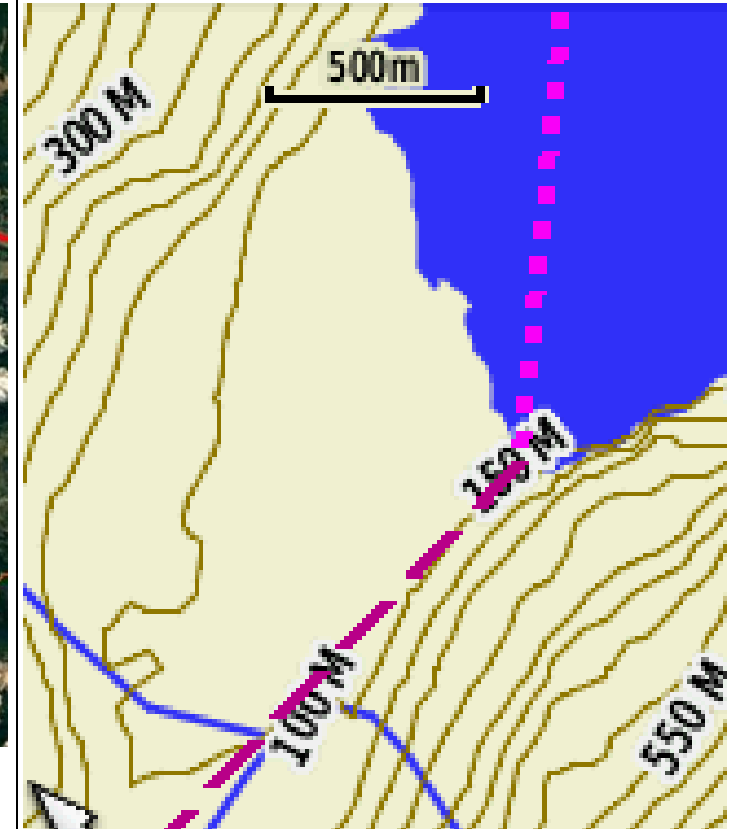
Picture 151: Google Earth Screen Shoot

Note: Exploration routes are orange (verified and approximate), light orange (investigation) and green (one-way and two-way packrafting on water) by adding yellow to the “standard colors”.

Exploration routes on land that are verified or approximate: Orange (Red + Yellow = Orange)

Exploration routes on land that are to be investigated: Light Orange (Rose + Yellow = Light Orange)

Exploration packrafting routes on water: Green (Blue + Yellow = Green)

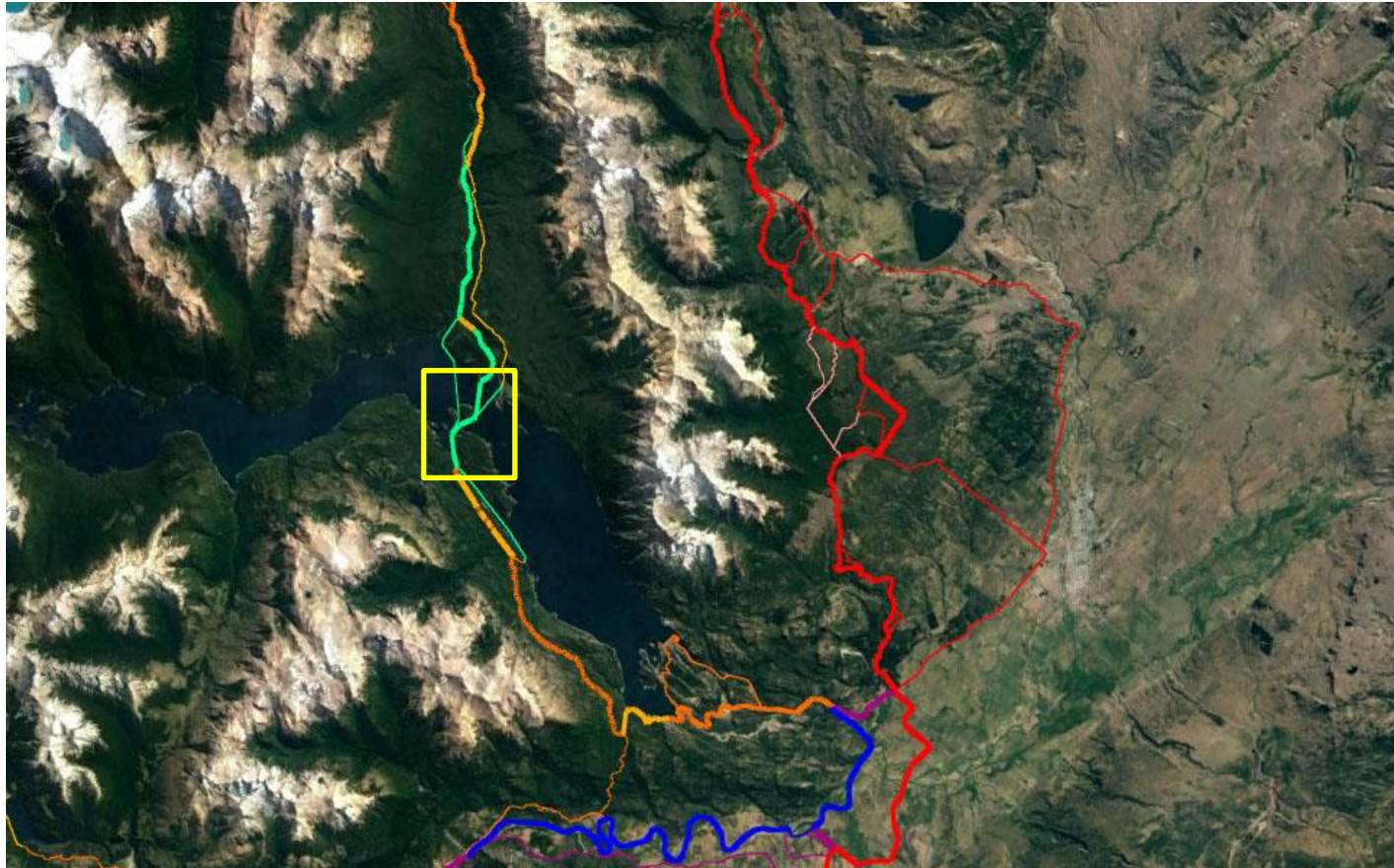


Picture 152: Garmin GPS Screen Shoot

Note: Exploration routes on land are violet.

Exploration packrafting routes on water are light violet (magenta or pink).

Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS



Picture 153: Google Earth Screen Shoot

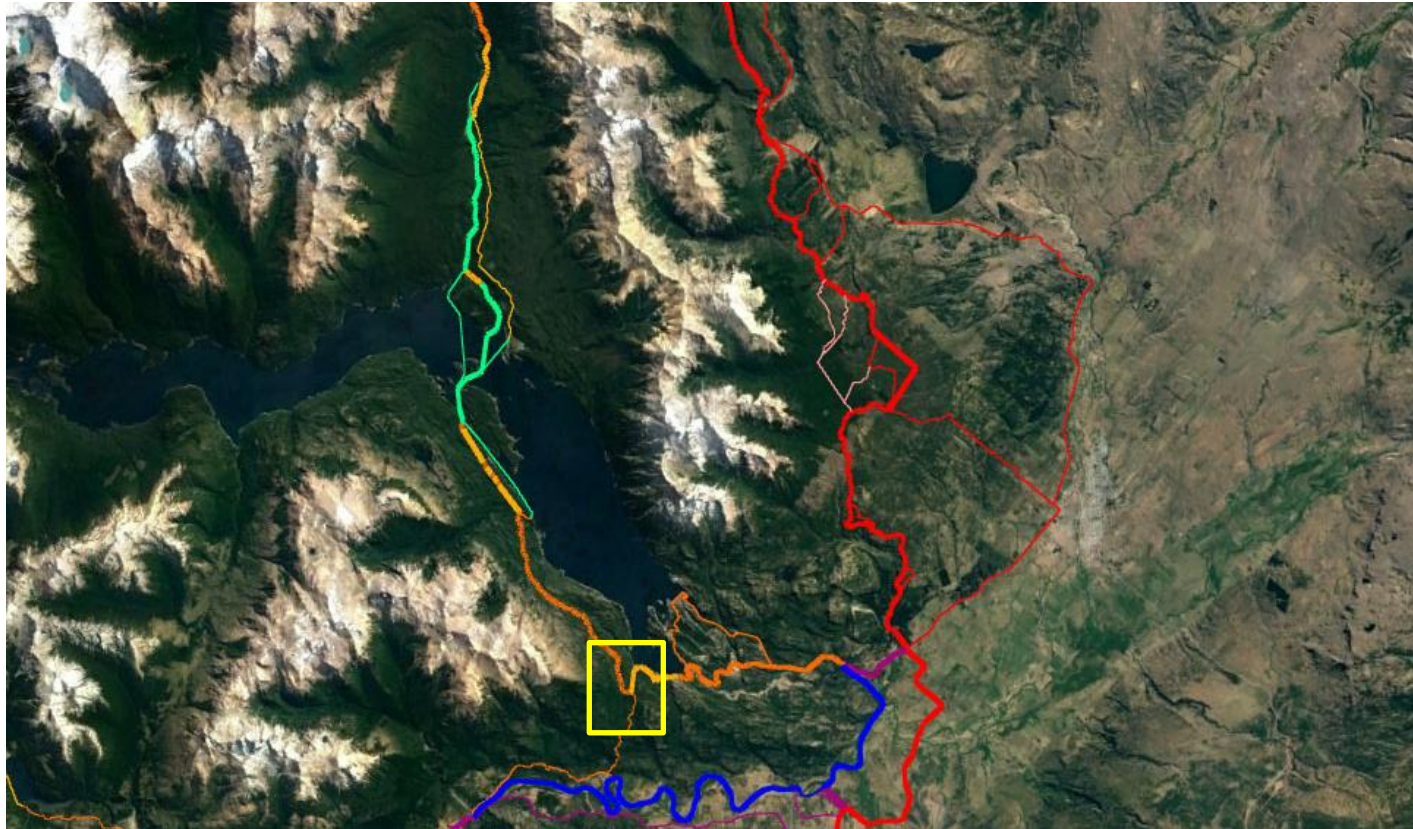
Note: Other features are equivalent (regular route is thicker, optional route is thinner).



Picture 154: Garmin GPS Screen Shoot

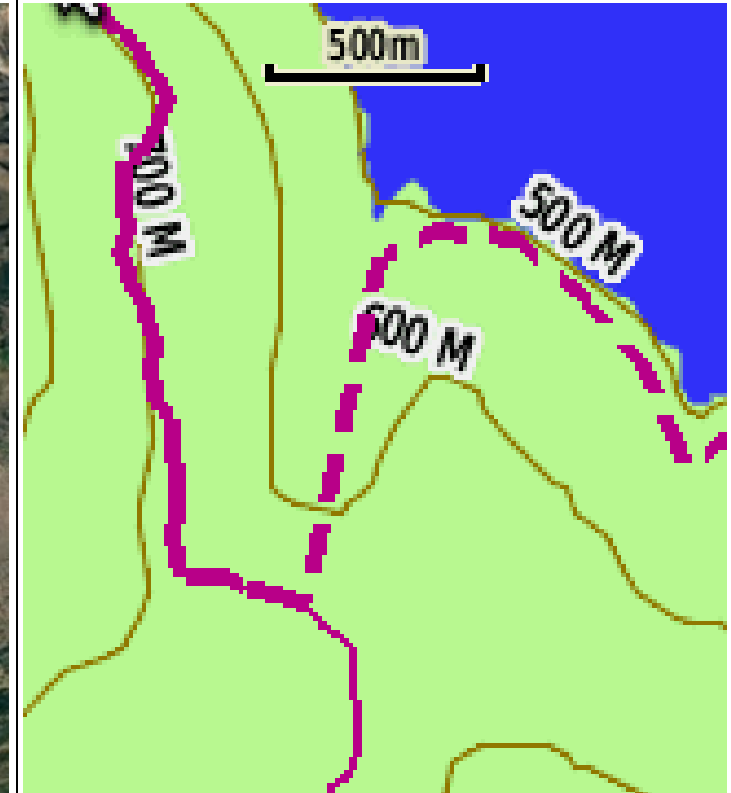
Note: Other features are equivalent.

Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS



Picture 155: Google Earth Screen Shoot

Note: Exploration routes on land that are verified or approximate are orange.
Exploration routes on land that remain to be investigated are light orange.



Picture 156: Garmin GPS Screen Shoot

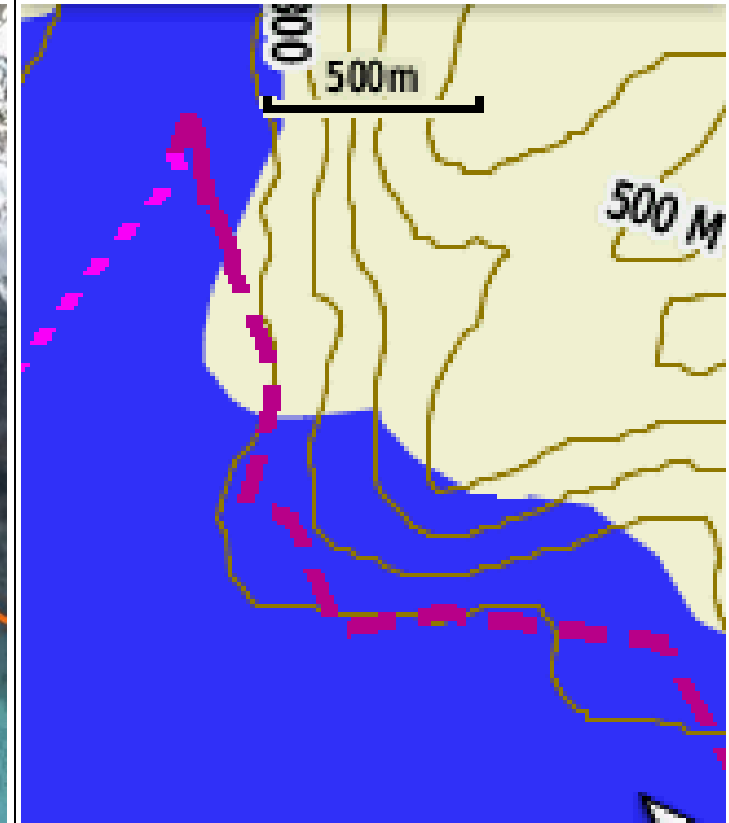
Note: Other features are equivalent i.e. verified routes are solid lines and investigation routes are dashed lines.

Track Display in Google Earth and on GPS



Picture 157: Google Earth Screen Shoot

Note: Satellite images are much more precise than the Garmin TOPO (topographic) maps.



Picture 158: Garmin GPS Screen Shoot

Note: Error in Garmin TOPO map (land/water).

3.2.11 Track Numbering

The first three elements of the track name identify the track relevance, the trail type and the track reliability. But this does not create an individual track name. There are hundreds of tracks that are i.e. part of the regular route, actual horse or hiking trails and that are validated and that start therefore with the same combined code “RR-TL-V”. But to manage the large number of tracks and to refer to specific tracks in a description individual track names are required.

Therefore, an individual track “number” is added after the first part of the track designation to create individual track names for each track. It’s actually an identifier containing numbers and not just a running number. See the [Table 117: Example track names on page 567](#) with five example track names for better illustration.

The identifier is added with a “@” symbol to the first part of the track name. After the @ follows the section code (section number) but without the abbreviation GPT to keep the track name as short as possible. So “@06” can be read as “At section GPT06” or simply “at GPT06”.

The track identifier ends with a number. This number is either a distance in kilometers (i.e. 0.0 / 2.7 / 6.9 / ...) or a running number (#000 / #001 / #002 / #003 / #004 / ...). I now actually minimize the use of running numbers in the trail file as this makes updating the file easier. When inserting an additional track or a waypoint I don’t want to renumber numerous items just to keep the numbering sequence consistent. Therefore I now use mostly the distance from the section start in kilometers instead of a running

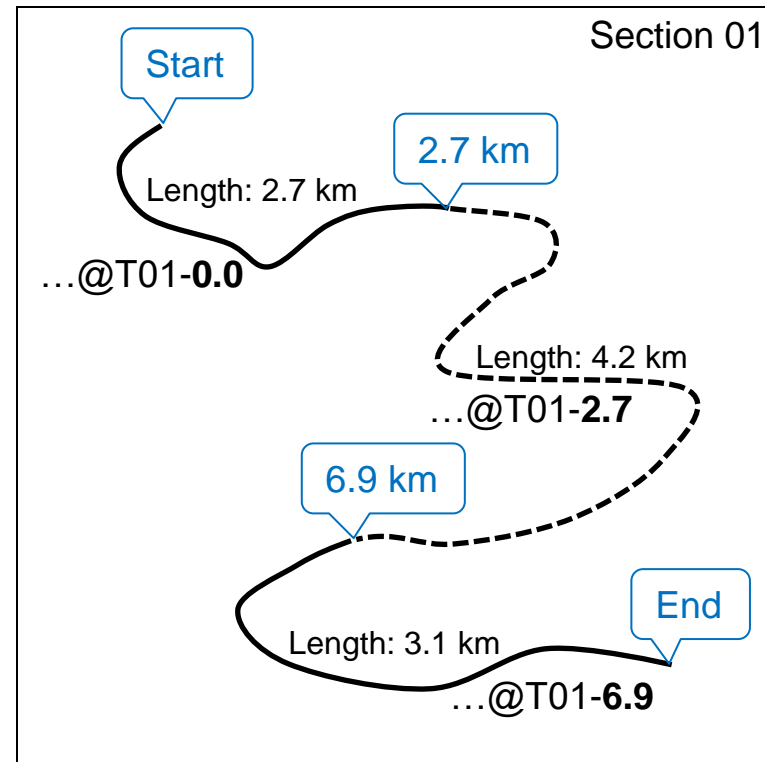
number to create a unique name for each tracks and waypoints. When adding a new track or waypoint anywhere along the route I just calculate the distance from the section start point to name the new item. Inserting a new item in the middle of other items that are numbered in sequence would require renaming all following items to keep the numbering sequence consistent.

This distance from the start is calculated in km with a precision of one hundred meters. This practically corresponds to one digit after the dot. This is done to avoid replicated track names and not because this precision is relevant or required.

For each section I defined a start point and a numbering orientation. The numbering orientation is generally southbound and the starting point is at the northern terminus of these sections. Only for a few packrafting sections that can only be travelled northbound the numbering orientation is northbound.

The first track of a section starts with “0.0”. The second track starts at the end of the first track therefore the starting point of the second track equals the length of the first track. The starting point of the third track is the combined length of the first and the second track. And so on. See the example graphic [Picture 159: Numbered track identifier](#) above.

Using distances instead of running numbers also provides useful information to the hiker. The hiker can use these distances to



Picture 159: Numbered track identifier

quickly calculate distances and estimate walking times. Just be aware that these distances will not precisely match the distances recorded by GPS while hiking. Normal GPS measurement errors (recording noise) and the one or the other minor detour typically result typically in a 5% to 10% higher recorded distance if compared with the actual length of the tracks.

3.2.11.1 Regular Route

The tracks of all regular routes have been numbered with the method described above. No running numbers are used for naming regular routes but distances from the section start.

3.2.11.2 Options and Variants

Where alternative routes divert from the regular route there this naming method does not provide unique track names. Therefore all alternatives have an additional number or letter in the track name. See the Table 117: Example track names [on page 567](#) with two example track names for such options and variants.

An option consists of one or multiple routes that deviates substantially from the regular route. In comparison a variant is just a minor alternative variation that does not result in a major deviation from the regular or reference routes.

Options have two digit running numbers (01 / 02 / 03 / 04 / ...). This permits a clear reference to an option in route description or a contributing feedback.

A variant has an identification letter (A / B / C / D / ...).

The regular routes and the regular hiking route are taken as principal reference for calculating the distances from the section start point. Wherever a track diverts from the regular hiking route there the accumulated distance of the regular hiking route is reference distance from the section start for the diverting track.

When you select on your GPS the track of an option or a variant than you will see a running number (#001 / #002 / #003 / #004 / ...) at the end of the track name and not a distance. In Google Earth these tracks mostly end with a “#” sign. The reason for this is very simple. I simply had not time to update the names of these optional tracks and when converting the KML file into a GPX file with the Garmin Basecamp software than all equally named tracks get a 3-digit number added by the software.

If this lengthily explanation to track names confused you than simply open the trail file for Google Earth (KMZ file) and scroll through the tracks. Than the above description becomes more conclusive.

3.2.12 Waypoints of the GPT

Due to time constrains I'm not able to update the names of the more than 3000 waypoints before the hiking season 2018/19. Therefore I simply left the waypoint names as they accumulated over the recent years with different terminologies and different naming conventions. This might be confusing and irritating as i.e. sections numbers don't match anymore but normally the waypoint name is sufficiently clear to at least guess what you may find in this location.

To be continued.

3.2.12.1 Waypoint Types

To be issued.

3.2.12.2 Waypoint Numbering

To be issued.

3.2.13 Useful Software

3.2.13.1 Google Earth Pro

To be issued.

3.2.13.2 Basecamp

To be issued.

3.2.13.3 IMGfromGPX

To be issued.

3.2.13.4 TYPViewer

To be issued.

3.2.13.5 GMapTool

To be issued.

3.3 Section Statistics

To be issued.

3.3.1 Calculation of Distances, Ascents, Descents and Estimated Hiking Times

All **distances** are all based on corrected GPS records without any seek and search detours and without the typical GPS recording noise. For parts without actual GPS recordings these values are calculated based on hand-drawn tracks that were sketched on satellite images in Google Earth.

All **altitudes, ascents and descents** are extracted from digital maps (Garmin TOPO Chile Deluxe) with a reasonable precise altitude profile and not taken from actual GPS recordings or barometric measurements that typically have a higher error margin. This method proved to provide reliable, consistent and conceivable data that is more accurate than actual GPS records⁵¹.

I intentionally do not suggest a specific number of hiking days for each section because the walking rhythm varies substantially between hikers. Instead I **estimated the hiking time or moving time** in hours for each section. This is the actual time that someone needs to walk or to packraft to get from the section start to the section finish without counting daytime breaks, overnight rests or the necessary time to set up a packraft before paddling or re-packing the backpack to continue hiking.

⁵¹ If you evaluate GPS records in detail you will notice recording noise causing small fluctuating measurement errors. This recording noise becomes most obvious when you i.e. rest with the GPS not switched off. Then the recording “dances” around the point of rest and continues to accumulate distance, ascent and descent while not moving at all. These accumulated measurement errors and occasional minor search detours result typically in 5% to 10% higher values for distance, ascent and descent of actual GPS records if compared with the corrected tracks. Therefore don’t expect that your personal GPS record will coincide with these values even if you do not leave the trail. This deviation is expected and does not indicate that the here documented values are incorrect. It simply shows methodical differences and normal GPS measurement errors.

The estimated hiking time or moving time is a reasonable reliable planning baseline because a different hiking pace is not so much driven by a different walking speed but by the time a hiker walks each day. Getting up early, taking only few short breaks and walking into the evening is what makes a hiker advance, not trying to run. If I would recommend a specific number of days for each section I would indirectly suggest a specific hiking style and this is not what I intent.

I developed and verified the calculation method for the estimated the hiking time and moving time based on our GPS records from the hiking season 2013/2014. In this season we walked and packrafted from GPT06 to GPT20 in 80 hiking days. The calculation factors shown in [Table 30: Calculation Factors for Hiking / Moving Time on page 246](#) resulted in a surprisingly small average deviation to our actual moving time recorded by GPS⁵².

When I evaluated our GPS records I was surprised that we did not move nearly one third of the time between leaving the camp in the morning and pitching our tent again in the evening. So if we in example left camp around 9:00 in the morning and walked till 18:00 in the evening then we were 9 hours on the trail of which we moved 6 hours. It did not appear to us that we made such long breaks but in this respect the GPS records do not lie. I'm sure, other hikers are more disciplined and steady walkers and cover therefore more distance each day but we are not on race so we don't mind.

We are not fast hikers, therefore the walking times calculated with these factors are conservative as long as a reasonable value for the daily moving time is used. **If you do not have actual measurements of your personal daily moving time use 5 hours per day** to start with. While advancing you can readjust this number that is relevant to correctly plan your food rations for each section.

⁵² The average deviation between the daily calculated and daily measured moving time was approx. 15 minutes based on our 80 daily GPS records.

The below documented values are based on the regular routes from the section start to the section finish in the documentation orientation (generally southbound). Choosing optional routes, adding side trips or taking short cuts can alter the distance, ascent and descent substantially. Therefore, to plan your trip evaluate the actual route that you plan to take and calculate with enough reserves.

3.3.2 Section Location and Section Planning Status

Published & Verified: At least the regular route was hiked and packrafted in recent years. You can be reasonable confident that the regular route is traversable but this does not necessarily apply to all optional routes and even less to the exploration routes of these sections.

Published Only: Detailed routes have been planned using satellite images and multiple other sources but these routes have not been verified or “ground-truthed”. There is good evidence that these routes have been used in the past but the current condition and the precise routing of these routes is partly unknown.

To be Planned: I intend to plan a detailed route in the next years and currently gather useful information like travel accounts, GPS records and draft routes based on satellite images.

To be Recorded by GPS: These sections have been hiked recently but without recording the hike by GPS. Therefore the next hikers should record their hike of this section by GPS completely from start to finish.

To be Verified: Detailed routes have been planned using satellite images and multiple other sources but these routes have not been verified or “ground-truthed”. Hikers attempting such sections should plan with significant extra time and extra food and be prepared to back-track if needed.

Section Location and Section Planning Status						
Section Designation		Pre-2017 Code	Group Code	Section Location		Planning Status of Regular Route
Code	Name			Country	Region/Province	
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	n/a	A	Chile	Region Metropolitano (V)	Published & Verified To be Recorded by GPS
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	n/a	A	Chile	Region Metropolitano (V) O'Higgins (VI)	Published & Verified
GPT03	Ríos Claros	n/a	A	Chile	Region O'Higgins (VI)	Published & Verified
GPT04	Alto Huemul	n/a	A	Chile	Region O'Higgins (VI) Maule (VII)	Published & Verified
GPT05	Río Colorado	n/a	B	Chile	Maule (VII)	Published & Verified
GPT06	Volcán Descabezado	GPT01	B	Chile	Maule (VII)	Published & Verified
GPT07	Laguna Dial	GPT02	B	Chile	Maule (VII) Bío Bío (VIII)	Published & Verified
GPT08	Volcán Chillan	GPT03	B	Chile	Bío Bío (VIII)	Published & Verified
GPT09	Volcán Antuco	GPT04	B	Chile	Bío Bío (VIII)	Published & Verified
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	GPT05	C	Chile	Bío Bío (VIII)	Published & Verified
GPT11	Cerro Dedos	GPT06	C	Chile	Bío Bío (VIII) Araucanía (IX)	Published & Verified
GPT12	Río Rahue	GPT07	C	Chile	Araucanía (IX)	Published & Verified
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	GPT08	C	Chile	Araucanía (IX)	Published & Verified
GPT14	Volcán Sollipulli	GPT08	C	Chile	Araucanía (IX)	Published & Verified
GPT15	Curarrehue	GPT09	C	Chile	Araucanía (IX)	Published & Verified

Section Location and Section Planning Status						
Section Designation		Pre-2017 Code	Group Code	Section Location		Planning Status of Regular Route
Code	Name			Country	Region/Province	
GPT16	Volcán Quetrupillan	GPT10	C	Chile	Araucanía (IX) Los Ríos (XIV)	Published & Verified
GPT17H	Liquiñe	GPT11H	D	Chile	Los Ríos (XIV)	Published & Verified
GPT17P	Neltume	GPT11P	D	Chile	Los Ríos (XIV)	Published & Verified
GPT18	Lago Pirihueico	GPT12	D	Chile	Los Ríos (XIV)	Published & Verified
GPT19	Volcán Puyehue	GPT13	D	Chile	Los Ríos (XIV) Los Lagos (X)	Published & Verified
GPT20	Volcán Antillanca	GPT14	D	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Published & Verified
GPT21	Lago Todos Los Santos	GPT15	D	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Published & Verified
GPT22	Cochamó	GPT16	D	Chile Argentina	Los Lagos (X) Chubut	Published & Verified
GPT23	PN Lago Puelo	GPT17	E	Argentina	Chubut	Published & Verified
GPT24H	PN Los Alerces Tierra	GPT18	E	Argentina	Chubut	Published & Verified
GPT24P	PN Los Alerces Agua	GPT18	E	Argentina	Chubut	Published & Verified
GPT25H	Aldea Escolar	GPT19H	E	Argentina	Chubut	Published & Verified
GPT25P	Lago Amutui Quimei	GPT19P	E	Argentina	Chubut	Published & Verified To be Recorded by GPS
GPT26	Carrenleufú	GPT20	E	Argentina Chile	Chubut Los Lagos (X)	Published & Verified

Section Location and Section Planning Status						
Section Designation		Pre-2017	Group	Section Location		Planning Status of Regular
Code	Name	Code	Code	Country	Region/Province	Route
GPT27H	Lago Palena	GPT21H	F	Chile	Los Lagos (X) Aysén (XI)	Published & Verified To be Recorded by GPS
GPT27P	Alto Río Palena	GPT21P	F	Chile	Los Lagos (X) Aysén (XI)	Published & Verified
GPT28H	La Tapera	GPT22H	G	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published & Verified
GPT28P	Bajo Río Palena	GPT22P	F	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published & Verified
GPT29H	Rio Cisnes	GPT23H	G	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published & Verified
GPT29P	Valle Picacho	GPT23P	G	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published & Partially Verified To be Verified & Recorded by GPS
GPT30H	Coyhaique	GPT24H	G	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published & Verified
GPT30P	Canal Puyuhuapi	GPT24P	F	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published Only To be Verified & Recorded by GPS
GPT31H	Valle Simpson	GPT25H	G	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published & Verified
GPT31P	Lagos de Aysen	GPT25P	G	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published & Verified
GPT32	Cerro Castillo	GPT26	H	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published & Verified
GPT33H	Puerto Ibañez	GPT27H	H	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published & Verified
GPT33P	Río Ibañez	GPT27P	H	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published & Verified
GPT34H	Ferry General Carrera	GPT28	H	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published & Verified
GPT34P	Lago General Carrera	n/a	H	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published & Partially Verified To be Verified & Recorded by GPS

Section Location and Section Planning Status						
Section Designation		Pre-2017 Code	Group Code	Section Location		Planning Status of Regular Route
Code	Name			Country	Region/Province	
GPT35	RN Lago Jenimeni	GPT29	H	Chile (Argentina)	Aysén (XI)	Published & Verified
GPT36H	Ruta De Los Pioneros	GPT30H	H	Chile (Argentina)	Aysén (XI)	Published & Verified
GPT36P	Río Baker	GPT30P	H	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published Only To be Verified & Recorded by GPS
GPT37H	Lago O'Higgins	GPT31	I	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published & Verified
GPT37P	Peninsula La Florida	n/a	I	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published Only To be Verified & Recorded by GPS
GPT38	Glaciar Chico	GPT31	I	Chile Argentina	Aysén (XI) Rio Negro	Published & Verified
GPT39	Monte Fitz Roy	GPT32	I	Argentina	Rio Negro	Published & Verified
GPT40	Glaciar Viedma	GPT33	I	Argentina	Rio Negro	Published & Verified
GPT41	Lago Viedma	n/a	J	Argentina	Rio Negro	To be Planned
GPT42	Glaciar Upsala	n/a	J	Argentina	Rio Negro	To be Planned
GPT43	Lago Argentina	n/a	J	Argentina	Rio Negro	To be Planned
GPT44	Peninsula Perito Moreno	n/a	J	Argentina	Rio Negro	To be Planned
GPT45	Torres Del Paine	n/a	J	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Planned
GPT46	Seno Ultima Esperanza	n/a	J	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Planned

Section Location and Section Planning Status						
Section Designation		Pre-2017 Code	Group Code	Section Location		Planning Status of Regular Route
Code	Name			Country	Region/Province	
GPT47	Seno Skyring	n/a	K	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Planned
GPT48	Seno Otway	n/a	K	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Planned
GPT49	Penunsila Brunswick	n/a	K	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Planned
GPT50	Cabo Forward	n/a	K	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Planned
GPT60H	Ferry Magellanes	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Planned
GPT60P	Estrecho Magellanes	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Planned
GPT61	Bahia Inutil Norte	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Planned
GPT62	Bahia Inutil Sur	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Planned
GPT63	Rio Grande	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Planned
GPT64	Lago Fagnano	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Planned
GPT65	Bahia Yendegaia	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Planned
GPT66H	Ferry Beagle	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Planned
GPT66P	Canal Beagle	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Planned
GPT67	Isla Navarino	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Planned
GPT68	Dientes de Navarino	n/a	L	Chile	Magellanes (XII)	To be Planned
GPT69	Tierra del Fuego Este	n/a	L	Argentina Chile	Rio Negro Magellanes (XII)	To be Planned
GPT70P	Alto Rio Futaleufú	GPT21P	M	Argentina Chile	Chubut Los Lagos (X)	Published & Partially Verified To be Verified & Recorded by GPS

Section Location and Section Planning Status						
Section Designation		Pre-2017	Group	Section Location		Planning Status of Regular
Code	Name	Code	Code	Country	Region/Province	Route
GPT71P	Espolón	n/a	M	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Published Only To be Verified & Recorded by GPS
GPT72P	Bajo Rio Futaleufú	GPT21P	M	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Published Only To be Verified & Recorded by GPS
GPT73P	Lago Yelcho	n/a	M	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Published & Verified
GPT74P	Río Yelcho	n/a	M	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Published & Verified
GPT75P	Río Frio	n/a	M	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Published & Verified To be Recorded by GPS
GPT76P	Canal Desertoires	n/a	N	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Published & Verified
GPT77P	Fjordo Comau Leptepu	n/a	N	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Published Only To be Verified & Recorded by GPS
GPT78P	Lago Pinto Concha	n/a	N	Chile	Los Lagos (X)	Published Only To be Verified & Recorded by GPS
GPT80P	Valle Exploradores	n/a	O	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published Only To be Verified & Recorded by GPS
GPT81P	Traversia Leones-Soler	n/a	O	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published Only To be Verified & Recorded by GPS
GPT82P	Traversia Soler-Nef	n/a	O	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published Only To be Verified & Recorded by GPS

Section Location and Section Planning Status						
Section Designation		Pre-2017	Group	Section Location		Planning Status of Regular
Code	Name	Code	Code	Country	Region/Province	Route
GPT83P	Traversia Nef-Colonia	n/a	O	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published Only To be Verified & Recorded by GPS
GPT90P	Volcan Hudson	n/a	P	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published Only To be Verified & Recorded by GPS
GPT91P	Istmo Ofqui	n/a	P	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published To be Verified & Recorded by GPS
GPT92P	Glacier Steffens	n/a	P	Chile	Aysén (XI)	Published Only To be Verified & Recorded by GPS
HA??	Huella Andina	n/a	Q	Argentina	Neuquen, Rio Negro, Chubut	Published By Others / No Track Files / Currently Unmaintained

Table 130: Section Location and Section Planning Status

3.3.3 Section Start, Finish and Section Sequence

Section Start, Finish and Section Sequence						
Section Designation		Section Location		Section Sequence		
Code	Name	Start Point	Finish Point	Alternative	Previous	Next
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	Santiago, Metro Puente Alto	El Melocotón	-	Start	GPT02
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	El Melocotón	Coya	-	GPT01	GPT03
GPT03	Ríos Claros	Coya	Aguas Buenas	-	GPT02	GPT04
GPT04	Alto Huemul	Aguas Buenas	Los Queñes	-	GPT03	GPT05
GPT05	Río Colorado	Los Queñes	Radal	-	GPT04	GPT06
GPT06	Volcán Descabezado	Radal	La Mina, Termas del Médano	-	GPT05	GPT07
GPT07	Laguna Dial	La Mina, Termas del Médano	Puente Ingles (El Roble)	-	GPT06	GPT08
GPT08	Volcán Chillan	Puente Ingles (El Roble)	Abanico (Centro de Esquí Antuco) (Piedra del Indio)	-	GPT07	GPT09
GPT09	Volcán Antuco	Abanico (Centro de Esquí Antuco) (Piedra del Indio)	Trapa Trapa, Posta	-	GPT08	GPT10
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	Trapa Trapa, Posta	Guallali, Carabiñeros	-	GPT09	GPT11
GPT11	Cerro Dedos	Guallali, Carabiñeros	Ranquil, Carabiñeros (Termas de Pelehue)	-	GPT10	GPT12

Section Start, Finish and Section Sequence						
Section Designation		Section Location		Section Sequence		
Code	Name	Start Point	Finish Point	Alternative	Previous	Next
GPT12	Río Rahue	Ranquil, Carabiñeros (Termas de Pelehue)	Liucura	-	GPT11	GPT13
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	Liucura	Icalma	-	GPT12	GPT14
GPT14	Volcán Sollipulli	Icalma	Reigolil	-	GPT13	GPT15
GPT15	Curarrehue	Reigolil	Currarehue	-	GPT14	GPT16
GPT16	Volcán Quetrupillan	Currarehue	Reyehueico	-	GPT15	GPT17H, GPT17P
GPT17H	Liquiñe	Reyehueico	Puerto Fuy	GPT17P	GPT16	GPT18
GPT17P	Neltume	Reyehueico	Puerto Fuy	GPT17H	GPT16	GPT18
GPT18	Lago Pirihueico	Puerto Fuy	Puerto Maihue	-	GPT17H, GPT17P	GPT19
GPT19	Volcán Puyehue	Puerto Maihue	Anticura, CONAF	-	GPT18	GPT20
GPT20	Volcán Antillanca	Anticura, CONAF	Las Gaviotas	-	GPT19	GPT21
GPT21	Lago Todos Los Santos	Las Gaviotas	Cochamó	-	GPT20	GPT22
GPT22	Cochamó	Cochamó	Lago Puelo, Puerto	-	GPT21	GPT23
GPT23	PN Lago Puelo	Lago Puelo, Puerto	Villa Lago Rivadavia	-	GPT22	GPT24H, GPT24P
GPT24H	PN Los Alerces Tierra	Villa Lago Rivadavia	Villa Futalaufquen	GPT24P	GPT23	GPT25H, GPT25P

Section Start, Finish and Section Sequence						
Section Designation		Section Location		Section Sequence		
Code	Name	Start Point	Finish Point	Alternative	Previous	Next
GPT24P	PN Los Alerces Agua	Villa Lago Rivadavia	Villa Futalaufquen (Lago Kruger Lodge)	GPT24H	GPT23	GPT25H, GPT25P
GPT25H	Aldea Escolar	Villa Futalaufquen	Aldea Escolar	GPT25P	GPT24H, GPT24P	GPT26
GPT25P	Lago Amutui Quimei	Lago Kruger Lodge	Aldea Escolar (Río Futalaufú)	GPT25H	GPT24H, GPT24P	GPT26, GPT70P
GPT26	Carrenleufú	Aldea Escolar	Palena	GPT70P	GPT25H, GPT25P	GPT27H, GPT27P, GPT70P
GPT27H	Lago Palena	Palena	Lago Verde	GPT27P	GPT26	GPT28H
GPT27P	Alto Río Palena	Palena (Río Palena, Confluencia Rio Tranquilo)	Río Palena, La Junta	GPT27H	GPT26, GPT72P	GPT28P, GPT30P
GPT28H	La Tapera	Lago Verde	La Tapera	-	GPT27H	GPT30H
GPT28P	Bajo Río Palena	Río Palena, La Junta	Puerto Chacabuco (Puerto Cisnes)	-	GPT27P, GPT30P	GPT31P, GPT29P, GPT30P
GPT29H	Rio Cisnes	La Tapera	Carretera Austral, Cruze Rio Picacho	-	GPT28H	GPT30H

Section Start, Finish and Section Sequence						
Section Designation		Section Location		Section Sequence		
Code	Name	Start Point	Finish Point	Alternative	Previous	Next
GPT29P	Valle Picacho	Puerto Chacabuco (or Carretera Austral, Cruze Rio Picacho)	Puerto Cisnes	Skip	GPT28P, GPT31P, GPT29H, GPT30H	GPT30P
GPT30H	Coyhaique	Carretera Austral, Cruze Rio Picacho	Coyhaique	-	GPT29H	GPT31H
GPT30P	Canal Puyuhuapi	Puerto Cisnes	Río Palena, La Junta (Río Palena, Confluencia Río Risopatron)	Skip	GPT29P, GPT28P, GPT27P	GPT28P
GPT31H	Valle Simpson	Coyhaique	Villa Frei	-	GPT30H	GPT32
GPT31P	Lagos de Aysen	Puerto Chacabuco	Villa Frei (Lago Elizalde)	-	GPT28P	GPT32, GPT29P
GPT32	Cerro Castillo	Villa Frei (Lago Elizalde)	Villa Cerro Castillo	-	GPT31H, GPT31P	GPT33H, GPT33P
GPT33H	Puerto Ibañez	Villa Cerro Castillo	Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez, Puerto	GPT33P	GPT32	GPT34H, GPT34P
GPT33P	Río Ibañez	Villa Cerro Castillo	Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez, Puerto	GPT33H	GPT32	GPT34H, GPT34P
GPT34H	Ferry General Carrera	Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez, Puerto	Chile Chico, Puerto	GPT34P	GPT33H, GPT33P	GPT35

Section Start, Finish and Section Sequence						
Section Designation		Section Location		Section Sequence		
Code	Name	Start Point	Finish Point	Alternative	Previous	Next
GPT34P	Lago General Carrera	Puerto Ingeniero Ibañez, Puerto	Chile Chico, Puerto	GPT34H	GPT33H, GPT33P	GPT35
GPT35	RN Lago Jenimeni	Chile Chico, Puerto	Cochrane	-	GPT34H, GPT34P	GPT36H, GPT36P
GPT36H	Ruta De Los Pioneros	Cochrane	Villa O'Higgins	GPT35, GPT36P	GPT35, GPT36P	GPT37H, GPT37P
GPT36P	Río Baker	Cochrane	Villa O'Higgins	GPT36H	GPT35	Finish, GPT36H
GPT37H	Lago O'Higgins	Villa O'Higgins	Candelario Mancillo, Puerto	GPT37P	GPT36H	GPT38
GPT37P	Penunsila La Florida	Villa O'Higgins	Candelario Mancillo, Puerto	GPT37H	GPT36H	GPT38
GPT38	Glaciar Chico	Candelario Mancillo, Puerto	Lago El Desierto, Gendarmeria	-	GPT37H, GPT37P	GPT39
GPT39	Monte Fitz Roy	Lago El Desierto, Gendarmeria	El Chalten	-	GPT38	Finish, GPT40
GPT40	Glaciar Viedma	El Chalten	Lago Viedma, Bahia Tunel	Skip	GPT39	Finish, GPT41
GPT41	Lago Viedma	Lago Viedma, Bahia Tunel	Lago Viedma, Estancia Helsingfors	-	GPT40	GPT42
GPT42	Glaciar Upsala	Lago Viedma, Estancia Helsingfors	Lago Argentino, Estancia Cristina	-	GPT41	GPT43

Section Start, Finish and Section Sequence						
Section Designation		Section Location		Section Sequence		
Code	Name	Start Point	Finish Point	Alternative	Previous	Next
GPT43	Lago Argentina	Lago Argentino, Estancia Cristina	Lago Argentino, Puerto Banderas	-	GPT42	GPT44
GPT44	Peninsula Perito Moreno	Lago Argentino, Puerto Banderas	Frontera, Hito III-40 (Frontera Lago Dickson)	-	GPT43	GPT45
GPT45	Torres Del Paine	Frontera, Hito III-40 (Frontera Lago Dickson)	Rio Serano, CONAF Park Entrance	-	GPT44	GPT46
GPT46	Seno Ultima Esperanza	Rio Serano, CONAF Park Entrance	Puerto Natales	-	GPT45	GPT47
GPT47	Seno Skyring	Puerto Natales	Rio Verde	-	GPT46	GPT48
GPT48	Seno Otway	Rio Verde	Punta Arenas	-	GPT47	GPT49
GPT49	Peninsula Brunswick	Punta Arenas	Fuerte Bulnes	-	GPT48	GPT50
GPT50	Cabo Forward	Fuerte Bulnes	Cabo Forward	-	GPT49	Finish, GPT60P
GPT60H	Ferry Magellanes	Punta Arenas	Porvenir	-	GPT48	GPT61
GPT60P	Estrecho Magellanes	Fuerte Bulnes	Lago Fagnano	-	GPT48, GPT49, GPT50	GPT61, GPT63, GPT65
GPT61	Bahia Inutil Norte	Porvenir	Cruze Onaisin	GPT60P	GPT60P	GPT62
GPT62	Bahia Inutil Sur	Cruze Onaisin	Camaron	GPT60P, GPT69	GPT61	GPT63

Section Start, Finish and Section Sequence						
Section Designation		Section Location		Section Sequence		
Code	Name	Start Point	Finish Point	Alternative	Previous	Next
GPT63	Rio Grande	Camaron	Cruze Paso Belavista	GPT60P, GPT69	GPT62	GPT64
GPT64	Lago Fagnano	Cruze Paso Belavista	Lago Fagnano	GPT60P, GPT69	GPT63	GPT65
GPT65	Bahia Yendegaia	Lago Fagnano	Puerto Yendegaia	GPT69	GPT64	GPT66H, GPT66P
GPT66H	Ferry Beagle	Puerto Yendegaia	Puerto Navarino (Puerto Williams)	GPT66P, GPT69	GPT65	GPT67
GPT66P	Canal Beagle	Puerto Yendegaia	Puerto Navarino	GPT66H, GPT69	GPT65	GPT67
GPT67	Isla Navarino	Puerto Navarino	Puerto Williams	GPT69	GPT66H, GPT66P	GPT68
GPT68	Dientes de Navarino	Puerto Williams	Puerto Williams	-	GPT67	Finish
GPT69	Tierra del Fuego Este	Cruze Onaisin (Cruze Paso Belavista)	Puerto Williams	GPT62, GPT63, GPT64, GPT65, GPT66H, GPT66P, GPT67	GPT61	GPT68

Section Start, Finish and Section Sequence						
Section Designation		Section Location		Section Sequence		
Code	Name	Start Point	Finish Point	Alternative	Previous	Next
GPT70P	Alto Rio Futaleufú	Río Futaleufú	Villa Futaleufú	-	GPT25H or GPT25P	GPT71P, GPT72P
GPT71P	Espolón	Villa Futaleufú	Puerto Cárdenas	GPT72P	GPT70P	GPT74P, GPT73P
GPT72P	Bajo Rio Futaleufú	Villa Futaleufú	Lago Yelcho, Brazo Sur (El Porfiado)	GPT71P	GPT70P	GPT27P, GPT73P
GPT73P	Lago Yelcho	Puerto Cárdenas	Lago Yelcho, Brazo Sur (Santa Lucía)	-	GPT71P, GPT72P	GPT72P, GPT74P, GPT75P
GPT74P	Río Yelcho	Puerto Cárdenas	Chaitén	-	GPT71P, GPT73P	GPT76P
GPT75P	Río Frio	Santa Lucía	Río Palena, Confluencia Río Frio	GPT72P	GPT73P	GPT27P
GPT76P	Canal Desertores	Chaitén	Caleta Gonzalo	-	GPT74P	GPT77P
GPT77P	Fjordo Comau Leptepu	Caleta Gonzalo	Hornopirén	-	GPT76P	GPT78P
GPT78P	Lago Pinto Concha	Hornopirén	Confluencia Río Traidor-Río Palena	-	GPT77P	GPT22
GPT80P	Valle Exploradores	Bahia Exploradores	Desague Lago Plomo (Lago Leones)	-	GPT90P	GPT81P, GPT34P

Section Start, Finish and Section Sequence						
Section Designation		Section Location		Section Sequence		
Code	Name	Start Point	Finish Point	Alternative	Previous	Next
GPT81P	Traversia Leones-Soler	Lago Leones	Confluencia Río Nef-Río Baker (Rio Soler)	-	GPT80P	GPT82P
GPT82P	Traversia Soler-Nef	Rio Soler	Confluencia Río Nef-Río Baker (Alto Rio Nef)	-	GPT81P	GPT83P, GPT36P
GPT83P	Traversia Nef-Colonia	Alto Rio Nef	Confluencia Río Colonia-Rio Baker	-	GPT82P	GPT36P
GPT90P	Volcan Hudson	Puerto Chacabuco	Bahia Exploradores	-	GPT28P, GPT29P, GPT31P	GPT80P, GPT91P
GPT91P	Istmo Ofqui	Bahia Exploradores	Caleta Tortel	-	GPT80P, GPT90P	GPT36P
GPT92P	Glacier Steffens	Caleta Tortel	Caleta Tortel	-	GPT91P, GPT36P	GPT91P, GPT36P
HA??	Huella Andina	-	-	-	-	-

Table 131: Section Start, Finish and Section Sequence

3.3.4 Hiking Travel Direction

Hiking Travel Direction				
Section Designation		Doku	Hiking Travel Direction	
Code	Name		Traversable	Comment
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT03	Ríos Claros	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT04	Alto Huemul	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT05	Río Colorado	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT06	Volcán Descabezado	↓	Both ↓↑	↑ Permit required
GPT07	Laguna Dial	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT08	Volcán Chillan	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT09	Volcán Antuco	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT11	Cerro Dedos	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT12	Río Rahue	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT14	Volcán Sollipulli	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT15	Curarrehue	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT16	Volcán Quetrupillan	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT17H	Liquiñe	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT17P	Neltume	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT18	Lago Pirihueico	↓	Both ↓↑	-

Hiking Travel Direction				
Section Designation		Doku	Hiking Travel Direction	
Code	Name		Traversable	Comment
GPT19	Volcán Puyehue	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT20	Volcán Antillanca	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT21	Lago Todos Los Santos	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT22	Cochamó	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Possibly reservation for camp site La Junta required
GPT23	PN Lago Puelo	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT24H	PN Los Alerces Tierra	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT24P	PN Los Alerces Agua	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT25H	Aldea Escolar	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT25P	Lago Amutui Quimei	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT26	Carrenleufú	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT27H	Lago Palena	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT27P	Alto Río Palena	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT28H	La Tapera	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT28P	Bajo Río Palena	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT29H	Rio Cisnes	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT29P	Valle Picacho	↑ and ←	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT30H	Coyhaique	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT30P	Canal Puyuhuapi	↑	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT31H	Valle Simpson	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT31P	Lagos de Aysen	↓	None	Hiking not feasible

Hiking Travel Direction				
Section Designation		Doku	Hiking Travel Direction	
Code	Name		Traversable	Comment
GPT32	Cerro Castillo	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT33H	Puerto Ibañez	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT33P	Río Ibañez	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT34H	Ferry General Carrera	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT34P	Lago General Carrera	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT35	RN Lago Jenimeni	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT36H	Ruta De Los Pioneros	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT36P	Río Baker	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT37H	Lago O'Higgins	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT37P	Peninsula La Florida	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT38	Glaciar Chico	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT39	Monte Fitz Roy	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT40	Glaciar Viedma	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT41	Lago Viedma	↓	-	-
GPT42	Glaciar Upsala	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT43	Lago Argentina	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT44	Peninsula Perito Moreno	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT45	Torres Del Paine	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT46	Seno Ultima Esperanza	↓	Both ↓↑	-

Hiking Travel Direction				
Section Designation		Doku	Hiking Travel Direction	
Code	Name		Traversable	Comment
GPT47	Seno Skyring	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT48	Seno Otway	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT49	Penunsila Brunswick	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT50	Cabo Forward	↓	Return	-
GPT60H	Ferry Magellanes	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT60P	Estrecho Magellanes	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT61	Bahia Inutil Norte	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT62	Bahia Inutil Sur	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT63	Rio Grande	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT64	Lago Fagnano	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT65	Bahia Yendegaia	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT66H	Ferry Beagle	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT66P	Canal Beagle	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT67	Isla Navarino	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT68	Dientes de Navarino	↓	Return	-
GPT69	Tierra del Fuego Este	↓	Both ↓↑	-
GPT70P	Alto Rio Futaleufú	←	Both ←→	Hiking not recommended since no attractive continuation
GPT71P	Espolón	←	Both ←→	Hiking not recommended since no attractive continuation
GPT72P	Bajo Rio Futaleufú	↓	Both ↓↑	Hiking not recommended since no attractive continuation
GPT73P	Lago Yelcho	↓	None	Hiking not feasible

Hiking Travel Direction				
Section Designation		Doku	Hiking Travel Direction	
Code	Name		Traversable	Comment
GPT74P	Río Yelcho	←	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT75P	Río Frio	↓	Both ↓↑	Hiking not recommended since no attractive continuation
GPT76P	Canal Desertoires	↑	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT77P	Fjordo Comau Leptepu	↑	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT78P	Lago Pinto Concha	↑	Both ↓↑	Hiking not recommended since no attractive continuation
GPT80P	Valle Exploradores	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT81P	Traversia Leones-Soler	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT82P	Traversia Soler-Nef	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT83P	Traversia Nef-Colonia	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT90P	Volcan Hudson	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT91P	Istmo Ofqui	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
GPT92P	Glacier Steffens	↓	None	Hiking not feasible
HA??	Huella Andina	↓	Both ↓↑	-

Table 132: Hiking Travel Direction

3.3.5 Packrafting Travel Direction

Packrafting Travel Direction						
Section Designation		Doku	Packrafting Travel Direction			
Code	Name		Traversable	Packraft Use Southbound	Packraft Use Northbound	Comment
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT03	Ríos Claros	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT04	Alto Huemul	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT05	Río Colorado	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT06	Volcán Descabezado	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	↑ Permit required
GPT07	Laguna Dial	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT08	Volcán Chillan	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Useful	↑ Useful	-
GPT09	Volcán Antuco	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Useful	↑ Useful	-
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT11	Cerro Dedos	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT12	Río Rahue	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Useful	↑ Useful	-
GPT14	Volcán Sollipulli	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Useful	↑ Useful	-
GPT15	Curarrehue	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT16	Volcán Quetrupillan	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT17H	Liquiñe	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT17P	Neltume	↓	Only ↓	↓ Required	↑ Not Possible	-

Packrafting Travel Direction						
Section Designation		Doku	Packrafting Travel Direction			
Code	Name		Traversable	Packraft Use Southbound	Packraft Use Northbound	Comment
GPT18	Lago Pirihueico	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Very Useful	-
GPT19	Volcán Puyehue	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Useful	↑ Useful	-
GPT20	Volcán Antillanca	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Useful	↑ Useful	-
GPT21	Lago Todos Los Santos	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Very Useful	-
GPT22	Cochamó	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Very Useful	↑ More packraft use
GPT23	PN Lago Puelo	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Useful	↓ More packraft use
GPT24H	PN Los Alerces Tierra	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT24P	PN Los Alerces Agua	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Useful	↓ More packraft use
GPT25H	Aldea Escolar	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT25P	Lago Amutui Quimei	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	↓ Southbound exploration appears preferable
GPT26	Carrenleufú	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT27H	Lago Palena	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Very Useful	-
GPT27P	Alto Río Palena	↓	Only ↓	↓ Required	↑ Not Possible	-
GPT28H	La Tapera	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	↓ Southbound exploration option with packrafting ↑ Northbound exploration option with substantial packrafting
GPT28P	Bajo Río Palena	↓	Only ↓	↓ Required	↑ Not Possible	-

Packrafting Travel Direction						
Section Designation		Doku	Packrafting Travel Direction			
Code	Name		Traversable	Packraft Use Southbound	Packraft Use Northbound	Comment
GPT29H	Rio Cisnes	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT29P	Valle Picacho	↑ and ←	Only ↑ and ←	↓ Only Partially Feasible	↑ Required ← Required	↓ Recommended direction for partial exploration to Lago Copa (full traverse not feasible due to river flow direction) ↑ Traverse after initial exploration
GPT30H	Coyhaique	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT30P	Canal Puyuhuapi	↑	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	↑ Northbound exploration appears preferable due to predominant wind direction and more packraft use
GPT31H	Valle Simpson	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT31P	Lagos de Aysen	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	↓ Recommended travel direction on regular route due to predominant wind direction ↑ Northbound exploration option with substantial packrafting
GPT32	Cerro Castillo	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Very Useful	-
GPT33H	Puerto Ibañez	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT33P	Río Ibañez	↓	Only ↓	↓ Required	↑ Not Possible	-
GPT34H	Ferry General Carrera	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Ferry Only	↑ Ferry Only	-

Packrafting Travel Direction						
Section Designation		Doku	Packrafting Travel Direction			
Code	Name		Traversable	Packraft Use Southbound	Packraft Use Northbound	Comment
GPT34P	Lago General Carrera	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	↓ ↑ Mostly hiking with challenging crossing of Lago General Carrera at 4 km wide narrow
GPT35	RN Lago Jenimeni	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Useful	-
GPT36H	Ruta De Los Pioneros	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Very Useful	↓ Regular packrafting routes includes challenging traverse of Lago Cochrane ↑ More river packrafting towards northern terminus
GPT36P	Río Baker	↓	Only ↓	↓ Required	↑ Not Possible	-
GPT37H	Lago O'Higgins	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Ferry Mainly	↑ Ferry Mainly	-
GPT37P	Penunsila La Florida	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	↓ ↑ Challenging crossing of Lago O'Higgins at 4 km wide narrow
GPT38	Glaciar Chico	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Very Useful	-
GPT39	Monte Fitz Roy	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Deployable	-
GPT40	Glaciar Viedma	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT41	Lago Viedma	↓	-	-	-	↓ ↑ Questionable if packrafting of Lago Viedma is feasible
GPT42	Glaciar Upsala	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Deployable	-
GPT43	Lago Argentina	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Ferry Only	↑ Ferry Only	-

Packrafting Travel Direction						
Section Designation		Doku	Packrafting Travel Direction			
Code	Name		Traversable	Packraft Use Southbound	Packraft Use Northbound	Comment
GPT44	Peninsula Perito Moreno	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Useful	-
GPT45	Torres Del Paine	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Useful	-
GPT46	Seno Ultima Esperanza	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Deployable	-
GPT47	Seno Skyring	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Deployable	-
GPT48	Seno Otway	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Deployable	-
GPT49	Penunsila Brunswick	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Deployable	-
GPT50	Cabo Forward	↓	Return	↓ ↑ Useful	↓ ↑ Useful	-
GPT60H	Ferry Magellanes	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Ferry Only	↑ Ferry Only	-
GPT60P	Estrecho Magellanes	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	-
GPT61	Bahia Inutil Norte	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT62	Bahia Inutil Sur	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT63	Rio Grande	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Deployable	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT64	Lago Fagnano	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Only Burden	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT65	Bahia Yendegaia	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Useful	↑ Useful	-
GPT66H	Ferry Beagle	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Ferry Only	↑ Ferry Only	-
GPT66P	Canal Beagle	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	-
GPT67	Isla Navarino	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Useful	-
GPT68	Dientes de Navarino	↓	Return	↓ ↑ Useful	↓ ↑ Useful	-

Packrafting Travel Direction						
Section Designation		Doku	Packrafting Travel Direction			
Code	Name		Traversable	Packraft Use Southbound	Packraft Use Northbound	Comment
GPT69	Tierra del Fuego Este	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Very Useful	↑ Very Useful	-
GPT70P	Alto Río Futaleufú	←	Both ←→	← Very Useful	→ Only Burden	-
GPT71P	Espolón	←	Both ←→	← Useful	→ Useful	-
GPT72P	Bajo Río Futaleufú	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Useful	↑ Only Burden	-
GPT73P	Lago Yelcho	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	↓ Recommended travel direction due to predominant wind direction / Challenging lake traverse ↑ Due to predominant wind direction normally not feasible / Road walking if packrafting is not feasible
GPT74P	Río Yelcho	←	Only ←	← Required	→ Not Possible	-
GPT75P	Río Frio	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Only Burden	↓ More packraft use ↑ Road walking only
GPT76P	Canal Desertores	↑	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	↑ Northbound appears preferable due combination with preceding section GPT74P Río Yelcho and predominant wind direction on days with favorable weather

Packrafting Travel Direction						
Section Designation		Doku	Packrafting Travel Direction			
Code	Name		Traversable	Packraft Use Southbound	Packraft Use Northbound	Comment
GPT77P	Fjordo Comau Leptepu	↑	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	↑ Northbound exploration appears preferable due combination with preceding section GPT74P Río Yelcho and predominant wind direction on days with favorable weather
GPT78P	Lago Pinto Concha	↑	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	-
GPT80P	Valle Exploradores	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	-
GPT81P	Traversia Leones-Soler	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	-
GPT82P	Traversia Soler-Nef	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Required	↑ Required	-
GPT83P	Traversia Nef-Colonia	↓	Only ↓	↓ Required	↑ Not Possible	-
GPT90P	Volcan Hudson	↓	Only ↓	↓ Required	↑ Not Possible	-
GPT91P	Istmo Ofqui	↓	Only ↓	↓ Required	↑ Not Possible	-
GPT92P	Glacier Steffens	↓	Return	↑ ↓ Required	↑ ↓ Required	-
HA??	Huella Andina	↓	Both ↓↑	↓ Useful	↑ Useful	-

Table 133: Packrafting Travel Direction

3.3.6 Section Travel Timing Recommendation

Section Designation		Section Travel Timing Recommendation								
Code	Name	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT03	Ríos Claros	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT04	Alto Huemul	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT05	Río Colorado	No	No	No	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	No
GPT06	Volcán Descabezado	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT07	Laguna Dial	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT08	Volcán Chillan	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT09	Volcán Antuco	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT11	Cerro Dedos	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT12	Río Rahue	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT14	Volcán Sollipulli	No	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT15	Curarrehue	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT16	Volcán Quetrupillan	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT17H	Liquiñe	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT17P	Neltume	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT18	Lago Pirihueico	No	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT19	Volcán Puyehue	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No

Section Designation		Section Travel Timing Recommendation								
Code	Name	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
GPT33P	Río Ibañez	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT34H	Ferry General Carrera	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
GPT34P	Lago General Carrera	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT35	RN Lago Jenimeni	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT36H	Ruta De Los Pioneros	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT36P	Río Baker	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.
GPT37H	Lago O'Higgins	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT37P	Penunsila La Florida	No	No	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT38	Glaciar Chico	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT39	Monte Fitz Roy	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.
GPT40	Glaciar Viedma	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT41	Lago Viedma	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.
GPT42	Glaciar Upsala	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT43	Lago Argentina	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT44	Peninsula Perito Moreno	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT45	Torres Del Paine	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT46	Seno Ultima Esperanza	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT47	Seno Skyring	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT48	Seno Otway	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT49	Penunsila Brunswick	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.

[illegible]

Section Designation		Section Travel Timing Recommendation								
Code	Name	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
GPT78P	Lago Pinto Concha	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT80P	Valle Exploradores	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT81P	Traversia Leones-Soler	No	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT82P	Traversia Soler-Nef	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT83P	Traversia Nef-Colonia	No	No	No	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	No
GPT90P	Volcan Hudson	No	No	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT91P	Istmo Ofqui	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.
GPT92P	Glacier Steffens	Cond.	Cond.	Cond.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cond.	Cond.

Table 134: Section Travel Timing Recommendation

3.3.7 Hiking Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Hiking Time

Hiking Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Hiking Time							
Section Designation		Regular Route or Regular Hiking Route					
Code	Name	Total Distance incl. Ferry	Hiking Distance	Ferry Distance	Ascent	Descent	Hiking Time
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	39.4 km	39.4 km	0.0 km	2227 m↑	1901 m↓	14 h
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	100.7 km	100.7 km	0.0 km	5146 m↑	5383 m↓	36 h
GPT03	Ríos Claros	83.7 km	83.7 km	0.0 km	4633 m↑	4904 m↓	32 h
GPT04	Alto Huemul	60.9 km	60.9 km	0.0 km	3101 m↑	2943 m↓	21 h
GPT05	Río Colorado	112.2 km	112.2 km	0.0 km	5918 m↑	5495 m↓	41 h
GPT06	Volcán Descabezado	86.5 km	86.5 km	0.0 km	4258 m↑	4372 m↓	30 h
GPT07	Laguna Dial	155.2 km	155.2 km	0.0 km	5611 m↑	5857 m↓	50 h
GPT08	Volcán Chillan	141.1 km	141.1 km	0.0 km	6636 m↑	6544 m↓	48 h
GPT09	Volcán Antuco	61.5 km	61.5 km	0.0 km	2336 m↑	2218 m↓	20 h
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	48.0 km	48.0 km	0.0 km	1690 m↑	1680 m↓	15 h
GPT11	Cerro Dedos	39.0 km	39.0 km	0.0 km	2071 m↑	1835 m↓	14 h
GPT12	Río Rahue	106.0 km	106.0 km	0.0 km	4684 m↑	4845 m↓	37 h
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	38.7 km	38.7 km	0.0 km	828 m↑	707 m↓	10 h
GPT14	Volcán Sollipulli	59.9 km	59.9 km	0.0 km	1875 m↑	2192 m↓	17 h
GPT15	Curarrehue	51.1 km	51.1 km	0.0 km	1488 m↑	1938 m↓	15 h
GPT16	Volcán Quetrupillan	67.5 km	67.5 km	0.0 km	2386 m↑	2551 m↓	21 h
GPT17H	Liquiñe	35.8 km	35.8 km	0.0 km	2022 m↑	1638 m↓	12 h
GPT18	Lago Pirihueico	95.4 km	70.3 km	25.1 km	2369 m↑	2875 m↓	24 h

Hiking Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Hiking Time							
Section Designation		Regular Route or Regular Hiking Route					
Code	Name	Total Distance incl. Ferry	Hiking Distance	Ferry Distance	Ascent	Descent	Hiking Time
GPT19	Volcán Puyehue	83.1 km	83.1 km	0.0 km	4248 m↑	3973 m↓	29 h
GPT20	Volcán Antillanca	38.5 km	38.5 km	0.0 km	1796 m↑	2036 m↓	13 h
GPT21	Lago Todos Los Santos	82.0 km	59.1 km	22.8 km	2136 m↑	2228 m↓	18 h
GPT22	Cochamó	162.3 km	160.5 km	1.8 km	6424 m↑	6263 m↓	52 h
GPT23	PN Lago Puelo	93.5 km	93.5 km	0.0 km	3991 m↑	3644 m↓	34 h
GPT24H	PN Los Alerces Tierra	77.7 km	68.5 km	9.2 km	3573 m↑	3580 m↓	25 h
GPT25H	Aldea Escolar	39.0 km	39.0 km	0.0 km	1069 m↑	1254 m↓	11 h
GPT26	Carrenleufú	90.3 km	90.3 km	0.0 km	2292 m↑	2393 m↓	25 h
GPT27H	Lago Palena	102.1 km	102.1 km	0.0 km	3898 m↑	3812 m↓	32 h
GPT28H	La Tapera	77.2 km	77.2 km	0.0 km	2558 m↑	2355 m↓	22 h
GPT29H	Rio Cisnes	80.4 km	80.4 km	0.0 km	1203 m↑	1477 m↓	19 h
GPT30H	Coyhaique	129.1 km	129.1 km	0.0 km	4805 m↑	4792 m↓	42 h
GPT31H	Valle Simpson	36.6 km	36.6 km	0.0 km	551 m↑	531 m↓	9 h
GPT32	Cerro Castillo	67.2 km	67.2 km	0.0 km	3183 m↑	3155 m↓	23 h
GPT33H	Puerto Ibañez	40.6 km	40.6 km	0.0 km	1071 m↑	1198 m↓	11 h
GPT34H	Ferry General Carrera	35.4 km	0.0 km	35.4 km	0 m↑	0 m↓	0 h
GPT35	RN Lago Jenimeni	150.4 km	150.4 km	0.0 km	5633 m↑	5694 m↓	48 h
GPT36H	Ruta De Los Pioneros	193.1 km	193.1 km	0.0 km	5685 m↑	5562 m↓	56 h
GPT37H	Lago O'Higgins	57.8 km	7.6 km	50.2 km	228 m↑	234 m↓	2 h

Hiking Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Hiking Time							
Section Designation		Regular Route or Regular Hiking Route					
Code	Name	Total Distance incl. Ferry	Hiking Distance	Ferry Distance	Ascent	Descent	Hiking Time
GPT38	Glaciar Chico	51.9 km	51.9 km	0.0 km	2492 m↑	2249 m↓	18 h
GPT39	Monte Fitz Roy	58.7 km	58.7 km	0.0 km	1493 m↑	1602 m↓	17 h
GPT40	Glaciar Viedma	64.4 km	64.4 km	0.0 km	2721 m↑	2721 m↓	22 h

Table 135: Hiking Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Hiking Time

3.3.8 Hiking Route Composition

Hiking Route Composition										
Section Designation		Total	Bush Bashing	Cross Country	Trail	Minor Road	Primary Road	Ferry	Investi- gation	Explora- tion
Code	Name		BB	CC	TL	MR	PR	FY	I	EXP
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	39.4 km	-	-	11.1 km	18.7 km	9.5 km	-	(7.6 km)	-
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	100.7 km	0.3 km	12.2 km	53.2 km	31.6 km	3.3 km	-	(1.2 km)	-
GPT03	Ríos Claros	83.7 km	1.2 km	3.1 km	69.6 km	8.9 km	1.0 km	-	-	-
GPT04	Alto Huemul	60.9 km	-	1.7 km	32.7 km	26.5 km	-	-	-	-
GPT05	Río Colorado	112.2 km	-	28.9 km	64.1 km	19.2 km	-	-	-	-
GPT06	Volcán Descabezado	86.5 km	-	-	72.1 km	14.4 km	-	-	(3.2 km)	-
GPT07	Laguna Dial	155.2 km	-	11.9 km	126.6 km	5.4 km	11.3 km	-	-	-
GPT08	Volcán Chillan	141.1 km	-	10.6 km	85.7 km	36.2 km	8.7 km	-	-	-
GPT09	Volcán Antuco	61.5 km	-	22.6 km	15.5 km	13.2 km	10.2 km	-	-	-
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	48.0 km	-	-	32.1 km	13.5 km	2.4 km	-	-	-
GPT11	Cerro Dedos	39.0 km	-	4.9 km	28.3 km	5.8 km	-	-	-	-
GPT12	Río Rahue	106.0 km	-	35.5 km	56.8 km	13.2 km	0.5 km	-	(0.8 km)	-
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	38.7 km	-	1.2 km	4.1 km	29.5 km	3.8 km	-	-	-
GPT14	Volcán Sollipulli	59.9 km	-	-	8.2 km	46.5 km	5.2 km	-	-	-
GPT15	Curarrehue	51.1 km	-	-	9.4 km	32.3 km	9.5 km	-	-	-
GPT16	Volcán Quetrupillan	67.5 km	-	6.0 km	14.2 km	45.4 km	2.0 km	-	-	-
GPT17H	Liquiñe	35.8 km	-	-	3.7 km	28.3 km	3.8 km	-	-	-
GPT18	Lago Pirihueico	70.3 km	3.6 km	0.7 km	7.5 km	57.7 km	0.9 km	(25.1 km)	(5.5 km)	-

Hiking Route Composition										
Section Designation		Total	Bush Bashing	Cross Country	Trail	Minor Road	Primary Road	Ferry	Investigation	Exploration
Code	Name		BB	CC	TL	MR	PR	FY	I	EXP
GPT19	Volcán Puyehue	83.1 km	-	20.7 km	8.8 km	51.4 km	2.2 km	-	-	-
GPT20	Volcán Antillanca	38.5 km	-	11.6 km	11.2 km	15.7 km	-	-	-	-
GPT21	Lago Todos Los Santos	59.1 km	-	0.3 km	30.0 km	13.8 km	15.0 km	(22.8 km)	-	-
GPT22	Cochamó	160.5 km	-	3.4 km	139.6 km	8.6 km	9.0 km	(1.8 km)	-	-
GPT23	PN Lago Puelo	93.5 km	4.4 km	4.2 km	53.3 km	20.0 km	11.5 km	-	-	-
GPT24H	PN Los Alerces Tierra	68.5 km	-	-	62.4 km	2.1 km	4.0 km	(9.2 km)	-	-
GPT25H	Aldea Escolar	39.0 km	-	-	15.5 km	23.5 km	-	-	-	-
GPT26	Carrenleufú	90.3 km	-	2.2 km	22.2 km	54.2 km	11.8 km	-	(1.2 km)	-
GPT27H	Lago Palena	102.1 km	-	3.3 km	67.3 km	31.4 km	-	-	(18.1 km)	-
GPT28H	La Tapera	77.2 km	-	-	-	77.2 km	-	-	-	-
GPT29H	Rio Cisnes	80.4 km	-	-	-	-	80.4 km	-	-	-
GPT30H	Coyhaique	129.1 km	2.0 km	17.5 km	21.5 km	38.9 km	49.3 km	-	(3.6 km)	-
GPT31H	Valle Simpson	36.6 km	-	-	-	20.7 km	15.9 km	-	-	-
GPT32	Cerro Castillo	67.2 km	-	10.9 km	20.8 km	35.5 km	-	-	-	-
GPT33H	Puerto Ibañez	40.6 km	-	-	10.1 km	26.6 km	3.9 km	-	-	-
GPT34H	Ferry General Carrera	-	-	-	-	-	-	(35.4 km)	-	-
GPT35	RN Lago Jenimeni	150.4 km	-	33.8 km	70.2 km	35.2 km	11.2 km	-	(30.1 km)	-
GPT36H	Ruta De Los Pioneros	193.1 km	-	5.3 km	83.9 km	69.2 km	34.7 km	-	(10.2 km)	-
GPT37H	Lago O'Higgins	7.6 km	-	-	-	-	7.6 km	(50.2 km)	-	-

Hiking Route Composition										
Section Designation		Total	Bush Bashing	Cross Country	Trail	Minor Road	Primary Road	Ferry	Investi-gation	Explora-tion
Code	Name		BB	CC	TL	MR	PR	FY	I	EXP
GPT38	Glaciar Chico	51.9 km	0.4 km	-	49.9 km	1.5 km	-	-	-	-
GPT39	Monte Fitz Roy	58.7 km	-	-	36.8 km	-	21.9 km	-	-	-
GPT40	Glaciar Viedma	64.4 km	-	22.9 km	38.0 km	0.1 km	3.4 km	-	-	-

Table 136: Hiking Route Composition

3.3.9 Packrafting Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Moving Time

Packrafting Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Moving Time									
Section Designation		Regular Packrafting Route							
Code	Name	Total Distance incl. Ferry	Packrafting Percentage	Packrafting Distance	Hiking Distance	Ferry Distance	Ascent	Descent	Moving Time
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	39.4 km	0.0%	0.0 km	39.4 km	0.0 km	2227 m↑	1901 m↓	14 h
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	100.7 km	0.0%	0.0 km	100.7 km	0.0 km	5146 m↑	5383 m↓	36 h
GPT03	Ríos Claros	83.7 km	0.0%	0.0 km	83.7 km	0.0 km	4633 m↑	4904 m↓	32 h
GPT04	Alto Huemul	60.9 km	0.0%	0.0 km	60.9 km	0.0 km	3101 m↑	2943 m↓	21 h
GPT05	Río Colorado	112.2 km	0.0%	0.0 km	112.2 km	0.0 km	5918 m↑	5495 m↓	41 h
GPT06	Volcán Descabezado	86.5 km	0.0%	0.0 km	86.5 km	0.0 km	4258 m↑	4372 m↓	30 h
GPT07	Laguna Dial	153.0 km	5.9%	9.0 km	144.0 km	0.0 km	4949 m↑	5195 m↓	48 h
GPT08	Volcán Chillan	135.0 km	17.0%	22.9 km	112.1 km	0.0 km	4981 m↑	4889 m↓	44 h
GPT09	Volcán Antuco	68.3 km	16.9%	11.6 km	56.7 km	0.0 km	1824 m↑	1706 m↓	21 h
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	48.0 km	0.0%	0.0 km	48.0 km	0.0 km	1690 m↑	1680 m↓	15 h
GPT11	Cerro Dedos	39.0 km	0.0%	0.0 km	39.0 km	0.0 km	2071 m↑	1835 m↓	14 h
GPT12	Río Rahue	105.6 km	1.0%	1.1 km	104.5 km	0.0 km	4627 m↑	4788 m↓	37 h
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	31.1 km	15.7%	4.9 km	26.2 km	0.0 km	444 m↑	323 m↓	8 h
GPT14	Volcán Sollipulli	61.3 km	9.9%	6.1 km	55.2 km	0.0 km	1750 m↑	2067 m↓	18 h
GPT15	Curarrehue	51.0 km	3.0%	1.5 km	49.5 km	0.0 km	1466 m↑	1916 m↓	15 h
GPT16	Volcán Quetrupillan	66.9 km	0.0%	0.0 km	66.9 km	0.0 km	2262 m↑	2415 m↓	20 h
GPT17P	Neltume	40.1 km	59.8%	24.0 km	16.1 km	0.0 km	859 m↑	487 m↓	10 h

Packrafting Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Moving Time									
Section Designation		Regular Packrafting Route							
Code	Name	Total Distance incl. Ferry	Packrafting Percentage	Packrafting Distance	Hiking Distance	Ferry Distance	Ascent	Descent	Moving Time
GPT18	Lago Pirihueico	85.8 km	26.2%	22.5 km	63.3 km	0.0 km	2147 m↑	2657 m↓	28 h
GPT19	Volcán Puyehue	70.6 km	13.6%	9.6 km	61.0 km	0.0 km	2986 m↑	2711 m↓	24 h
GPT20	Volcán Antillanca	38.5 km	0.0%	0.0 km	38.5 km	0.0 km	1796 m↑	2036 m↓	13 h
GPT21	Lago Todos Los Santos	84.2 km	48.1%	40.5 km	43.7 km	0.0 km	1792 m↑	1884 m↓	26 h
GPT22	Cochamó	124.5 km	37.0%	46.1 km	78.4 km	0.0 km	2522 m↑	2361 m↓	37 h
GPT23	PN Lago Puelo	80.0 km	50.6%	40.5 km	39.5 km	0.0 km	2185 m↑	1838 m↓	28 h
GPT24P	PN Los Alerces Agua	73.9 km	97.5%	72.0 km	1.8 km	0.0 km	34 m↑	41 m↓	20 h
GPT25H	Aldea Escolar	39.0 km	0.0%	0.0 km	39.0 km	0.0 km	1069 m↑	1254 m↓	11 h
GPT25P	Lago Amutui Quimei	47.4 km	24.6%	11.7 km	35.8 km	0.0 km	1030 m↑	1203 m↓	16 h
GPT26	Carrenleufú	90.5 km	7.0%	6.3 km	84.2 km	0.0 km	2291 m↑	2392 m↓	25 h
GPT27P	Alto Río Palena	103.5 km	97.8%	101.3 km	2.3 km	0.0 km	19 m↑	234 m↓	21 h
GPT28P	Bajo Río Palena	423.9 km	93.4%	77.5 km	5.4 km	340.9 km	77 m↑	115 m↓	18 h
GPT29P	Valle Picacho	117.4 km	45.6%	53.5 km	63.9 km	0.0 km	1118 m↑	1119 m↓	33 h
GPT30P	Canal Puyuhuapi	515.0 km	88.2%	153.6 km	20.5 km	340.9 km	358 m↑	356 m↓	42 h
GPT31P	Lagos de Aysen	86.6 km	52.2%	45.2 km	41.4 km	0.0 km	1127 m↑	825 m↓	24 h
GPT32	Cerro Castillo	91.0 km	18.9%	17.2 km	73.8 km	0.0 km	3356 m↑	3328 m↓	30 h
GPT33P	Río Ibañez	34.3 km	80.9%	27.8 km	6.5 km	0.0 km	84 m↑	211 m↓	7 h
GPT34H	Ferry General Carrera	35.4 km		0.0 km	0.0 km	35.4 km	0 m↑	0 m↓	0 h

Packrafting Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Moving Time									
Section Designation		Regular Packrafting Route							
Code	Name	Total Distance incl. Ferry	Packrafting Percentage	Packrafting Distance	Hiking Distance	Ferry Distance	Ascent	Descent	Moving Time
GPT34P	Lago General Carrera	100.8 km	10.0%	10.1 km	90.7 km	0.0 km	3148 m↑	3144 m↓	30 h
GPT35	RN Lago Jenimeni	156.3 km	24.9%	39.0 km	117.3 km	0.0 km	3427 m↑	3488 m↓	44 h
GPT36H	Ruta De Los Pioneros	275.7 km	50.0%	137.7 km	138.0 km	0.0 km	4348 m↑	4225 m↓	77 h
GPT36P	Río Baker	310.2 km	64.8%	201.0 km	109.2 km	0.0 km	3364 m↑	3241 m↓	73 h
GPT37H	Lago O'Higgins	57.3 km	51.9%	3.6 km	3.4 km	50.2 km	29 m↑	35 m↓	1 h
GPT37P	Penunsila La Florida	84.7 km	15.6%	13.2 km	71.5 km	0.0 km	2614 m↑	2619 m↓	26 h
GPT38	Glaciar Chico	75.8 km	6.5%	4.9 km	70.8 km	0.0 km	3613 m↑	3370 m↓	27 h
GPT39	Monte Fitz Roy	64.1 km	44.8%	28.7 km	35.3 km	0.0 km	879 m↑	986 m↓	17 h
GPT40	Glaciar Viedma	64.4 km	0.0%	0.0 km	64.4 km	0.0 km	2721 m↑	2721 m↓	22 h
GPT70P	Alto Rio Futaleufú	29.6 km	62.7%	18.5 km	11.0 km	0.0 km	283 m↑	265 m↓	7 h
GPT71P	Espolón	114.3 km	10.9%	12.5 km	101.8 km	0.0 km	2231 m↑	2529 m↓	31 h
GPT72P	Bajo Rio Futaleufú	78.4 km	0.0%	0.0 km	78.4 km	0.0 km	1922 m↑	2127 m↓	21 h
GPT73P	Lago Yelcho	47.1 km	73.7%	34.7 km	12.4 km	0.0 km	360 m↑	173 m↓	13 h
GPT74P	Río Yelcho	52.3 km	99.0%	51.8 km	0.5 km	0.0 km	247 m↑	291 m↓	12 h
GPT75P	Río Frio	41.6 km	88.2%	36.7 km	4.9 km	0.0 km	388 m↑	545 m↓	9 h
GPT76P	Canal Desertores	77.8 km	99.4%	77.3 km	0.5 km	0.0 km	76 m↑	83 m↓	22 h
GPT77P	Fjordo Comau Leptepu	101.7 km	88.6%	90.1 km	11.6 km	0.0 km	297 m↑	285 m↓	29 h
GPT78P	Lago Pinto Concha	52.7 km	5.9%	3.1 km	49.6 km	0.0 km	1344 m↑	1311 m↓	21 h

Packrafting Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Moving Time									
Section Designation		Regular Packrafting Route							
Code	Name	Total Distance incl. Ferry	Packrafting Percentage	Packrafting Distance	Hiking Distance	Ferry Distance	Ascent	Descent	Moving Time
GPT80P	Valle Exploradores	131.9 km	48.8%	64.4 km	67.5 km	0.0 km	1704 m↑	1501 m↓	44 h
GPT81P	Traversia Leones-Soler	79.6 km	64.5%	51.3 km	28.3 km	0.0 km	1594 m↑	1732 m↓	24 h
GPT82P	Traversia Soler-Nef	74.9 km	30.6%	22.9 km	51.9 km	0.0 km	1962 m↑	2090 m↓	32 h
GPT83P	Traversia Nef-Colonia	67.2 km	69.7%	46.8 km	20.4 km	0.0 km	659 m↑	1030 m↓	29 h
GPT90P	Volcan Hudson	155.8 km	73.0%	113.7 km	42.1 km	0.0 km	1059 m↑	1058 m↓	39 h
GPT91P	Istmo Ofqui	311.1 km	85.0%	264.3 km	46.7 km	0.0 km	665 m↑	664 m↓	93 h
GPT92P	Glacier Steffens	92.1 km	89.5%	82.4 km	9.7 km	0.0 km	175 m↑	175 m↓	24 h

Table 137: Packrafting Section Length, Ascent, Descent and Estimated Moving Time

3.3.10 Packrafting Route Composition

Packrafting Route Composition													
Section Designation		Total	River	Lake	Fjord	Bush Bashing	Cross Country	Trail	Minor Road	Primary Road	Ferry	Investigation	Exploration
Code	Name		RI	LK	FJ	BB	CC	TL	MR	PR	FY	I	EXP
GPT01	Cerro Purgatorio	39.4 km	-	-	-	-	-	11.1 km	18.7 km	9.5 km	-	(7.6 km)	-
GPT02	Mina El Teniente	100.7 km	-	-	-	0.3 km	12.2 km	53.2 km	31.6 km	3.3 km	-	(1.2 km)	-
GPT03	Ríos Claros	83.7 km	-	-	-	1.2 km	3.1 km	69.6 km	8.9 km	1.0 km	-	-	-
GPT04	Alto Huemul	60.9 km	-	-	-	-	1.7 km	32.7 km	26.5 km	-	-	-	-
GPT05	Río Colorado	112.2 km	-	-	-	-	28.9 km	64.1 km	19.2 km	-	-	-	-
GPT06	Volcán Descabezado	86.5 km	-	-	-	-	-	72.1 km	14.4 km	-	-	(3.2 km)	-
GPT07	Laguna Dial	153.0 km	-	9.0 km	-	-	12.2 km	115.2 km	5.4 km	11.3 km	-	-	-
GPT08	Volcán Chillan	135.0 km	-	22.9 km	-	-	7.0 km	61.9 km	33.7 km	9.6 km	-	-	-
GPT09	Volcán Antuco	68.3 km	-	11.6 km	-	-	15.5 km	16.0 km	14.3 km	10.9 km	-	-	-
GPT10	Laguna El Barco	48.0 km	-	-	-	-	-	32.1 km	13.5 km	2.4 km	-	-	-
GPT11	Cerro Dedos	39.0 km	-	-	-	-	4.9 km	28.3 km	5.8 km	-	-	-	-
GPT12	Río Rahue	105.6 km	-	1.1 km	-	-	35.5 km	55.3 km	13.2 km	0.5 km	-	(0.8 km)	-
GPT13	Laguna Icalma	31.1 km	-	4.9 km	-	-	1.4 km	4.1 km	20.0 km	0.7 km	-	-	-
GPT14	Volcán Sollipulli	61.3 km	-	6.1 km	-	-	0.0 km	8.2 km	46.9 km	-	-	-	-
GPT15	Curarrehue	51.0 km	-	1.5 km	-	-	-	7.7 km	32.3 km	9.5 km	-	-	-
GPT16	Volcán Quetrupillan	66.9 km	-	-	-	-	6.0 km	14.2 km	44.7 km	2.0 km	-	-	-
GPT17P	Neltume	40.1 km	20.4 km	3.6 km	-	-	0.2 km	0.7 km	11.0 km	4.2 km	-	(1.8 km)	-
GPT18	Lago Pirihueico	85.8 km	-	22.5 km	-	3.6 km	1.1 km	7.6 km	51.0 km	-	-	(5.5 km)	-
GPT19	Volcán Puyehue	70.6 km	-	9.6 km	-	-	19.2 km	8.8 km	30.8 km	2.2 km	-	-	-

Packrafting Route Composition													
Section Designation		Total	River	Lake	Fjord	Bush Bashing	Cross Country	Trail	Minor Road	Primary Road	Ferry	Investigation	Exploration
Code	Name		RI	LK	FJ	BB	CC	TL	MR	PR	FY	I	EXP
GPT20	Volcán Antillanca	38.5 km	-	-	-	-	11.6 km	11.2 km	15.7 km	-	-	-	-
GPT21	Lago Todos Los Santos	84.2 km	2.8 km	26.3 km	11.4 km	-	0.8 km	26.7 km	14.3 km	2.0 km	-	-	-
GPT22	Cochamó	124.5 km	1.8 km	26.9 km	17.4 km	-	2.0 km	64.3 km	2.1 km	10.0 km	-	-	-
GPT23	PN Lago Puelo	80.0 km	20.8 km	19.7 km	-	4.5 km	4.5 km	28.0 km	1.6 km	0.9 km	-	-	-
GPT24P	PN Los Alerces Agua	73.9 km	17.9 km	54.2 km	-	-	0.1 km	-	0.8 km	0.9 km	-	-	-
GPT25H	Aldea Escolar	39.0 km	-	-	-	-	-	15.5 km	23.5 km	-	-	-	-
GPT25P	Lago Amutui Quimei	47.4 km	-	11.7 km	-	2.9 km	0.7 km	21.5 km	0.7 km	9.9 km	-	(6.0 km)	(22.1 km)
GPT26	Carrenleufú	90.5 km	6.3 km	-	-	-	2.3 km	22.1 km	45.3 km	14.4 km	-	(1.2 km)	-
GPT27P	Alto Río Palena	103.5 km	101.3 km	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.3 km	-	-	-
GPT28P	Bajo Río Palena	83.0 km	67.7 km	-	9.9 km	-	-	-	1.2 km	4.3 km	(340.9 km)	-	-
GPT29P	Valle Picacho	117.4 km	23.4 km	28.0 km	2.2 km	3.9 km	-	14.3 km	23.2 km	22.4 km	-	(17.8 km)	(53.9 km)
GPT30P	Canal Puyuhuapi	174.1 km	82.5 km	10.8 km	60.3 km	-	-	-	2.2 km	18.4 km	(340.9 km)	-	(84.3 km)
GPT31P	Lagos de Aysen	86.6 km	5.5 km	39.6 km	-	0.4 km	0.3 km	1.3 km	39.5 km	-	-	(0.7 km)	-
GPT32	Cerro Castillo	91.0 km	-	17.2 km	-	1.2 km	3.8 km	20.9 km	47.9 km	-	-	-	-
GPT33P	Río Ibañez	34.3 km	27.8 km	-	-	-	1.9 km	-	2.3 km	2.4 km	-	-	-
GPT34H	Ferry General Carrera	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(35.4 km)	-	-
GPT34P	Lago General Carrera	100.8 km	2.6 km	7.4 km	-	-	3.3 km	24.7 km	17.6 km	45.0 km	-	-	(10.1 km)
GPT35	RN Lago Jenimeni	156.3 km	22.3 km	16.7 km	-	-	28.2 km	32.0 km	44.8 km	12.3 km	-	-	-
GPT36H	Ruta De Los Pioneros	275.7 km	45.5 km	92.2 km	-	-	7.7 km	78.9 km	44.0 km	7.3 km	-	(1.8 km)	-
GPT36P	Río Baker	310.2 km	180.7 km	11.7 km	8.7 km	0.2 km	1.7 km	4.8 km	2.4 km	100.0 km	-	(3.2 km)	(178.6 km)
GPT37H	Lago O'Higgins	7.0 km	3.6 km	-	-	-	-	-	0.3 km	3.1 km	(50.2 km)	-	-

Packrafting Route Composition													
Section Designation		Total	River	Lake	Fjord	Bush Bashing	Cross Country	Trail	Minor Road	Primary Road	Ferry	Investigation	Exploration
Code	Name		RI	LK	FJ	BB	CC	TL	MR	PR	FY	I	EXP
GPT37P	Penunsila La Florida	84.7 km	1.9 km	11.3 km	-	-	-	66.5 km	1.8 km	3.1 km	-	(38.6 km)	(68.9 km)
GPT38	Glaciar Chico	75.8 km	0.1 km	4.8 km	-	0.4 km	20.0 km	48.8 km	1.5 km	-	-	(5.2 km)	-
GPT39	Monte Fitz Roy	64.1 km	18.0 km	10.7 km	-	-	0.3 km	25.6 km	-	9.5 km	-	-	-
GPT40	Glaciar Viedma	64.4 km	-	-	-	-	22.9 km	38.0 km	0.1 km	3.4 km	-	-	-
GPT70P	Alto Rio Futaleufú	29.6 km	18.5 km	-	-	-	-	-	0.1 km	10.9 km	-	-	-
GPT71P	Espolón	114.3 km	-	12.5 km	-	-	-	32.5 km	49.9 km	19.5 km	-	(18.2 km)	(41.4 km)
GPT72P	Bajo Rio Futaleufú	78.4 km	-	-	-	-	-	17.4 km	25.7 km	35.3 km	-	(12.7 km)	-
GPT73P	Lago Yelcho	47.1 km	-	34.7 km	-	-	-	-	-	12.4 km	-	-	-
GPT74P	Río Yelcho	52.3 km	47.2 km	-	4.6 km	-	-	-	-	0.5 km	-	-	-
GPT75P	Río Frio	41.6 km	36.7 km	-	-	-	0.6 km	-	-	4.3 km	-	-	-
GPT76P	Canal Desertores	77.8 km	-	-	77.3 km	-	-	-	-	0.5 km	-	-	-
GPT77P	Fjordo Comau Leptepu	101.7 km	-	-	90.1 km	-	-	-	2.4 km	9.1 km	-	-	(52.4 km)
GPT78P	Lago Pinto Concha	52.7 km	-	3.1 km	-	6.9 km	-	31.5 km	11.1 km	-	-	(25.1 km)	(29.8 km)
GPT80P	Valle Exploradores	131.9 km	24.4 km	40.0 km	-	11.5 km	11.3 km	9.4 km	35.2 km	-	-	(21.8 km)	(95.4 km)
GPT81P	Traversia Leones-Soler	79.6 km	20.6 km	30.7 km	-	-	13.1 km	15.2 km	-	-	-	(11.2 km)	(79.6 km)
GPT82P	Traversia Soler-Nef	74.9 km	22.9 km	-	-	13.7 km	7.9 km	5.3 km	25.0 km	-	-	(20.7 km)	(48.7 km)
GPT83P	Traversia Nef-Colonia	67.2 km	26.4 km	20.4 km	-	14.2 km	6.2 km	-	-	-	-	(17.4 km)	(67.2 km)
GPT90P	Volcan Hudson	155.8 km	61.3 km	12.2 km	40.2 km	-	2.5 km	25.9 km	13.7 km	-	-	(9.6 km)	(127.3 km)
GPT91P	Istmo Ofqui	311.1 km	48.2 km	8.8 km	207.4 km	11.4 km	35.3 km	-	-	-	-	(18.9 km)	(311.1 km)
GPT92P	Glacier Steffens	92.1 km	20.7 km	1.4 km	60.3 km	-	2.5 km	7.2 km	-	-	-	-	(92.1 km)

Table 138: Packrafting Route Composition

3.4 Other Publications to the GPT

3.4.1 Bethany Hughes and Lauren Reed

Hiked: Ushuaia to Cuzco (by October 2017) and still going ...

Hiked on the GPT: Northbound GPT39 to GPT01 (Alternative routes replaced GPT26, GPT22 to GPT20)

Packrafting: No

Link to blog: www.her-odyssey.org 🌐

Bethany and Lauren are on their way to traverse the length of the Americas by non-motorized means to connect stories of the land and its inhabitants. They started in December 2015 in Ushuaia on the southern tip of the continent and were the first to walk the entire length of the GPT. We got in touch before they commenced their endeavor and while they walked northbound I developed the trail southbound. This resulted in a very fertile exchange of ideas and routes. Bethany and Lauren “gound-truthed” and recorded several of the hiking sections of



Picture 160: GPT13: Bethany and Lauren with the Pehuenche family of Olga and Geronimo near Icalma. Image: www.her-odyssey.org

the GPT in central Patagonia based on my drafts. This was a very important support since I traveled with my wife primarily the packraft options in central Patagonia. The following year, around October 2016, they asked me for my advice how to continue their journey north which led me to develop the five northern section of the GPT extending the trail all the way to Santiago. Independently from Gerald Klammer they investigated and recorded these five sections in the Precordillera (GPT01 to GPT05).

I'm deeply grateful for their contributions. They did not only provide important GPS records to get the tracks updated. Both were essential to get the message to prospective hikers right on how to approach this trail. Bethany and Lauren continue to support me in documenting the GPT.

I strongly recommend reading Bethany's general advice to the GPT: [Blog: Thru-Hiking-The-Greater-Patagonian-Trail](#) 🌐 and [Blog: So-You-Wanna-Hike-The-GPT](#) 🌐

In addition you should read the blogs of Bethany and Lauren to the sections that you are planning to walk. Just browse their blogs to find what is relevant for you: www.her-odyssey.org 🌐



Picture 162: GPT36H: Bethany speaking with Heraldo Rial on the Ruta de los Pioneros.
Image: Lauren Reed



Picture 161: GPT47: Manuel in the making bread for Bethany and Lauren. Image: Lauren Reed

3.4.2 Garrett Martin: Feature Film “Unbounded”

Hiked on the GPT: GPT06 (partly), GPT07, GPT10-GPT12, GPT17, GPT18 (partly), GPT19, GPT22 (partly) in the hiking season 2016/17

Packrafting: Yes

Link: www.unboundedthefilm.com 🌐

[Garrett Martin](#) came to Chile with three other notice hikers to create a travel documentary along the GPT. Badly overloaded with camera gear, recording equipment and packrafts they started on section GPT06 and did not make it very far. But in contrast to others that made similar announcements before their departure Garrett and his team did not give up. They learned their lessons and gradually adapted to the trail. They downscaled but did not scrap their plans and picked the most attractive sections in the northern half of the GPT. In this way they recorded several of the highlights of the GPT and took the time to meet the people along the trail.

The result of this adventure is 74-minute [feature film “Unbounded”](#) that shows the beauty, the cultural richness but also the challenges of this trail network. I highly recommend watching this work of art to all prospective hikers as part of their preparation. You can download or stream this film from [iTunes](#), [Amazon](#) or [Vimeo](#) 🌐.



Picture 163: GPT06: Robyn, Aljoscha and Anthony with their oversized backpacks. Image: Garrett Martin

To draw the right conclusions for your hike read my comments to the film “Unbounded” either before or better after watching:

- This film is an authentic documentation of the beauty and the local culture of the [zones most recommended for hiking](#). By focusing on their individual experience of the trail without even trying to provide an overview of the GPT this film is rather an appetizer than a proper meal for someone getting prepared to hike or packraft on the GPT.
- Garrett and his team had the right attitude for GPT. Humbleness and persistence compensated in part the experience that they lacked. Recognizing when to retreat is essential on these informal trails and cross country routes that surprise even weathered hikers.
- In the hiking season 2016/17 the GPT documentation was still in its infancy. This Hiker’s Manual was inexistent and the article on Wikiexplora did not reflect the lessons learned from other hikers. And I was a novice adviser for other hikers. Having spent most of my spare time of the previous decade in Chile and Argentina I struggled to put myself in the place of someone unfamiliar with Patagonia. In hindsight I must admit that I took good parts of my local knowledge for granted and did not document all challenges with clarity.
- Garrett and other team members lacked outdoor experience and the GPT is not really the place to take such lessons safely. Without the expertise to pack just the right gear they were far too heavy to advance fast enough on the more demanding sections. In example carrying a packraft in areas where such a boat is just a burden was not a wise choice. But they learned it the hard way and eventually mastered selected highlights of the GPT to shoot this fascinating film.

- They struggled with setting up the GPS and hiked with outdated trail files. A few weeks before they departed I published an improved route network that in example replaced one demanding bush bashing route by a decent trail in a different valley. They tried to copy the update on the GPS but a malfunction resulted in seeing only the outdated route network without a topographic map in the background. Therefore they missed to take the recommended trail and stumbled unintentionally on an even more demanding unverified exploration route. Overloaded with camera gear and undersupplied with food they run out of reserves in the worst possible spot and had no other choice than to return.
- There is one more lesson that I learned from Garrett's experience and also others that are not cited here. If someone intends to make a documentary or film along the trail then I strongly recommend now to first come one season without much camera gear to simply get to know the trail, the region and in particular the people. Be a silent observer first before speaking up to others!

3.4.3 The American Hike

To be issued.

3.4.4 Gerald Klammer

Hiked on the GPT: Southbound all sections from GPT01 to GPT11

Packrafting: No

Links: [Greater Patagonian Trail North: Summary and Conclusions Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#), [Part 4](#), [Part 5](#), [Part 6](#), [Part 7](#), [Part 8](#), [Part 9](#) 🌐

Gerald is a highly experienced hiker who walked in many remote areas around the world. He learned about this trail though a common friend (Christine Thürmer, the German author of the book “Laufen, Essen, Schlafen”). When we got in touch I told him about the newly drafted but unverified five northern sections (GPT01 to GPT05). He loved the idea to be the first to investigate and record them and so he did! When he reached the already verified part of the GPT he did not continue on the “path of least resistance” by following the already well documented regular route but instead he kept investigating and recording the more remote and mountainous options that I drafted mainly based on satellite images and descriptions from local *arrieros*. He liked it so much that he now prepares the continuation of his hike on the GPT in the coming season.



Picture 164: GPT06: Gerald Klammer investigating and recording the route around Laguna del Maule. Image: Gerald Klammer

He hikes without making a self-promotion-show out of it and this is a pleasant contrast to some others (that I'm not citing here!). His careful and humble attitude is key to appreciate the GPT. If you plan to walk the northern sections GPT01 to GPT 05 then I highly recommend reading his blog. He provides a very detailed account of the route and Gerald's blog tells you in a personal and exemplary way what to expect when walking the GPT.



Picture 165: GPT05: Gerald investigating remote routes. Image: Gerald Klammer



Pictures 166 and 167: GPT04: Gerald visiting *arrieros* on the route. Image: Gerald Klammer

3.4.5 Piia Kortsalo and Oliver Barker

Hiked on the GPT: Southbound all sections from GPT06 to GPT22

Packrafting: No

Link: [NothingTwoWrite about the Greater Patagonian Trail](#) 🌐

Piia and Oliver, a Finnish-Canadian couple, walked sections GPT06 to GPT22 in about two month. Like Gerald Klamer they maximized their time on the trail by minimizing resupply stops, a strategy that we also apply and suggest. Combining several sections into longer legs is beneficial where you do not have a village with a shop at the section end but where you need to take a bus to a town far off the trail. Such a resupply bus trip can easily cost you two or three days until you are back on the trail. To efficiently cover longer multi-section legs Piia and Oliver paid a great deal of attention to gear weight and function. They applied a lot of the ultra-light principals but not so much to go fast but to get far. They normally got food for about 10 days each time they resupplied and then walked as far as feasible.

I'm impressed how they moved on even when they got in overgrown terrain and how they managed the sometimes unpredictable nature of the GPT. Where others turned around they just kept going but in a respectful and humble manner; a key attitude on the GPT.



Picture 168: GPT23: Piia and Oliver towards the end of their trip. Image: Oliver Barker

3.4.6 Statement of a Triple-Crown Thru-Hiker to the GPT

Lauren "Neon" Reed comparing the GPT with the US long-distance trails (CDT, PCT, AT)

Lauren "Neon" Reed thru-hiked the AT (2008), the PCT (2010) and the CDT (2013). She also thru-hiked the Colorado Trail (2012) and made many unmapped cross-country hikes in the wilderness of Utah before she thru-hiked the GPT in two seasons (2015 to 2017). This makes Lauren the best person to compare the GPT with the famous US long-distance trails. She writes:

"Having thru-hiked about 8,000 miles in the US before beginning our trek across South America, I would still find myself in over my head at times along the Greater Patagonia Trail. This included terrain as well as culture. The places I've been along the GPT, as a generality, seem more remote than most distance trails I've experienced in the US- think central/northern Montana along the CDT, minus the bears and plus a few more passes. As you walk along the GPT, you will go through many diverse ecosystems, as opposed to desert/mountains which you experience on many trails in the US. The GPT takes you from the glaciated southern ice field of Chile up through pine trees, lush dense deciduous forest, alti-planos, valleys teeming with animals wild and farmed, along/through rivers and lakes (also wild and farmed), volcanoes, to the more arid environments south of Santiago, as well as a few border crossings into Argentina. It is by far the hardest trail I have done due to remoteness as well as terrain- yes, there are times you follow valleys, there are also times along this trail where you will go up, across and down 1,000 meter passes each day (sometimes multiple times in a day), following overgrown horse and animal paths. There are no trail markers or blazes, sometimes there isn't even a 'trail'- just a cross-country route. Do not expect anyone to know what you are doing or why you just walked down their driveway/out of their shrub/over their fence/through their gate (which you closed behind you, right?)

This trail definitely has easier sections, but I cannot remember a day where I didn't look at my compass and/or GPS along the

entirety of the GPT. Because of the options we were given and Jan requesting us to investigate some options he had yet to check out personally, I began calling certain sections "Choose your own Adventure", meaning go whichever way you want, as long as you're near the route labeled as the GPT on your GPS. We also tried to not do anything stupid, though there were times I nearly was swept away trying to cross a strong-flowing river or nearly slid down a steep scree field along the GPT. This is not a trail for someone who doesn't know how to use a GPS or Compass. This is not a trail for someone who doesn't know how to properly read a river to know where the best place to cross is. This is not a trail for anyone who doesn't at least have a basic understanding of topography as well as map and compass skills. Jan has a great route mapped so you can download it onto a GPS, but when you come across an area that's swept away by last years snowmelt or on fire, do you have a plan or any idea what to do? What if you're not paying attention to your battery life and your GPS dies? Don't go up shit creek without a paddle, as the saying goes.

There won't always be what you may want in town to eat or even a place to stay with hot water. Knowing at least basic Spanish language skills is a must if you want to feel connected or informed in any of the areas you go through. Any effort of understanding the culture and land goes a long way. Thankfully, I have a basic understanding which has grown over our trek and my hiking partner is fluent in cultural sensitivities as well as the Spanish language. As Jan states, you are an uninvited guest on others' land at times- tread respectfully and carefully- Most of the time, they will respond in kind."

3.5 Distinct Contributors

Providing a summary of your hike, recording your hike by GPS and suggesting useful waypoints is something that every GPT hiker should do and this is part of the [Terms and Conditions](#) for using the Trail Files.

Investigating an exploration option or entire exploration section is different story. Also getting involved in editing the Hiker's Manual and issuing i.e. sections descriptions goes far beyond the commitment of the [Terms and Conditions](#) and is a distinct contribution. In the following I highlight such distinct contributions in alphabetic order.

3.5.1 Bethany Hughes and Lauren Reed

[Bethany and Lauren](#) were the first to hike the length of the GPT as part of a much bigger adventure: They traverse the length of the Americas by non-motorized means to connect stories of the land and its inhabitants. We got in touch before they commenced their endeavour in December 2015 on the southern tip of the continent and while they walked northbound I developed the trail southbound. This resulted in a very fertile exchange of ideas and routes. Lauren and Bethany “ground-truthed” and recorded several of the hiking sections of the GPT in central Patagonia based on my drafts in season 2015/16. This was a very important contribution since I travelled with my wife primarily the packrafting routes in central Patagonia. In the following season 2016/17 Bethany and Lauren made a complete GPS record while they hiked from section GPT19 to GPT01. Especially the northern sections GPT01 to GPT05 were unverified terrain at this time and they investigated and recorded these five sections.

But Bethany and Lauren provided much more than GPS records. With the [Blog: So-You-Wanna-Hike-The-GPT](#) 🌐 they were the first to publicly rectify potentially wrong assumptions of foreign hikers when they try imagine what the Greater Patagonian Trail


might be. This was an important eye-opener for me because I travelled Patagonia nearly annually since 2002 and many peculiarities of this unique region became self-evident for me. When I started publishing the GPT I could not really put myself in the shoes of i.e. a US Thru-Hiker who's understanding of hiking is a rather athletic walk on well established public trails.

We met Lauren and Bethany in Santiago after they completed their walk on the GPT, discussed our experience of Patagonia and developed ideas how to better document this unique route network. In the following months Bethany and Lauren supported a full update of the GPT documentation by reviewing and editing a good part of what you just read.

Bethany and Lauren also initiated the Facebook GPT group as a platform of exchange between hikers. I did not actively use Facebook until 2017 and was first sceptical but Bethany showed me the benefits of sharing updates in such a group. Bethany and Lauren continue to be very helpful collaborators till today.

3.5.2 Danilo Contreras

Danilo is the *arriero* that formed our understanding of the *arriero* culture and that opened the Maule region for use. About two decades ago he started guiding horse riding tours between his home in Rari, the Laguna del Maule and the Laguna Dial (GPT07). During our horse riding tours with Danilo and his friend Llito we were surprised that this region is full of mostly undocumented trail and this inspired us to search more routes on satellite images where official maps are basically blank. This experience laid the foundation for creating the GPT in the following years.

If you wish to discover parts of the GPT on horseback then Danilo can provide you with an very authentic experience. You can contact him on www.chile-horseriding.com .

3.5.3 Estefania Chereguini and Walter Oszust

In our first investigation season in 2013/14 we reached Lago Puelo what is now the finish section GPT22. But regardless how careful I searched later satellite images; I could not find a suitable southbound extension between Lago Puelo and Lago Cholila. All I could see were routes that terminated half-way, dense forest or boring paved roads.

It was Dario (Full Name) from (Organization) who connected me with Estefania Chereguini and Walter Oszust, the founders of the Huella Andina. They know this area inside out and guided us in our second investigation season 2014/15 from Lago Cholila to Lago Puelo. This route was nothing but obvious and without their local expertise we would have been stuck in the forest and be forced to return. Thanks to Estefania and Walter the GPT is now a continuous route that connects Parque Nacional Lago Puelo with Parque Nacional Los Alerces on a scenic route without significant road walking (GPT23).

3.5.4 Garrett Martin

Garrett Martin is the director and producer of the 74-minute [feature documentary “Unbounded”](#). This travel documentary from the GPT shows the beauty, the cultural richness but also the challenges of this trail network. By creating this work of art Garrett provides a revealing first impression of the GPT to prospective hikers. Garret together with three other novice hikers walked parts of the GPT in the season 2016/17 and published the film one year later in May 2018. You can download or stream this film from [iTunes](#), [Amazon](#) or [Vimeo](#) 🌐. To draw the right conclusions for your hike read [my comments to this film](#) either before or better after watching.

3.5.5 Gerald Klamer

[Gerald Klamer](#) is a forest ranger from Germany who spend the two hiking seasons 2016/17 and 2017/18 on the GPT and he already plans to return in 2018/19. He loves to explore the unverified investigation routes and when he can choose between different routes he normally goes for the more remote and demanding option. This made him one of the most productive contributors to the GPT. He was the first⁵³ to “ground-truth” and record the northern sections GPT01 to GPT05, he investigated and recorded the particular remote options of GPT06 and GPT07 and Gerald was the first that recorded the alternative route of GPT29H that minimizes road walking in Central Patagonia substantially. Thanks to this verification I can now change the Regular Route for this more scenic alternative. I’m positive that I need to extend this list of contributions in the next years.

3.5.6 Joaquin Baraño and Juan Pablo Marsiglia

Joaquin Baraño and Juan Pablo Marsiglia created wikiexpora.com, which became my platform of choice to publish the Greater Patagonian Trail. After the first investigation season 2013/14 and opting to publish my “discoveries” I was evaluating various possibilities how to publish this new trail network. I opted for wikiexplora.com because this page is specifically build to house such trail publications and facilitates a collaboration in between hikers. The wiki technology is generally easy to use and facilitates continuous updating by my multiple contributors.

⁵³ I planned sections GPT01 to GPT05 based on satellite images and a route published by Tobias Hellwig without ever having hiked in this area. Gerald Klamer walked sections GPT01 to GPT05 in January 2017 in southbound direction about one month before Bethany Hughes and Lauren Reed investigated the same sections independently in northbound direction. All GPS records and trail descriptions were equally relevant to publish the verified version of these five northern sections that extend the GPT now seamless to Santiago de Chile.

3.5.7 Kara Davis and Michael Deckebach

To be issued.

3.5.8 Matgorzata (Gosia) Gmerek and Paul Bostelmann

Gosia and Paul actually planned to explore Chile and Argentina by car but their car was stolen shortly after purchase and badly damaged in the attempt to steal an ATM (a Chilean speciality: steal car, put a cable around ATM and try to steal the ATM with brute force). This forced Gosia and Paul to replan their journey through Chile and Argentina and they opted to hike and paddle the GPT in season 2016/17. We met in Coyhaique several months into their trip and opted to join for an investigation of optional routes of section GPT31P (Río Paloma, Lago Caro, Río Blanco). We successfully verified about half of the traverse but a completely overgrown trail forced us to leave the completion of this traverse for a future attempt. Later Gosia and Paul researched and recorded a barely used trail of section GPT36H (Valle Ventisquero) and pioneered packrafting routes of section GPT36P (Rio Colorado, Lago Colorado, Lago Cisnes, Lago Ciervo) and section GPT38 (Lago Chico next to Glaciar Chico).

3.5.9 Oliver Barker and Piia Kortsalo

[Piia and Oliver](#) hiked sections GPT06 to GPT24 in season 2016/17. Both were very thoughtful consultants during the full update of the GPT documentation that followed this hiking season. Their publication on [NothingTwoWrite](#) 🌐 of their hike will certainly help future hikers to make appropriate choices and get properly prepared for the GPT.

3.5.10 Tobias Hellwig

Tobias, a Chilean of German descendance, has hiked and paddled in many areas of the southern Andes and is an important contributor on Wikiexplora.com. His contribution to the GPT was essential to plan the northern extension of the GPT. He was the first to record the Cuesta las Hormigas on section GPT05 that was the missing link to extend the GPT all the way to Santiago. Tobias contributed numerous options in the Aysen region and I'm certain the list of his contributions will grow in the coming years.

3.6 Remark to the Limits of Patagonia

There is no doubt that Patagonia is part of the Southern Cone but opinions deviate where it exactly starts and ends. The northern limit of Patagonia on the Chilean side can be seen as south as the Estuarió de Reloncaví (latitude $41^{\circ} 30'$ South) or as north as the river Río Biobío (about latitude 37° South if taking the mouth at Concepcion as reference). That's a difference of about 500 km. On the Argentine side the understanding of the limits can be equally different. Some take the Río Negro with the tributary Río Limay as the northern limit (about latitude 39° South) others the Río Barrancas and the Río Colorado (Latitude 36° South). Also the southern limit is fuzzy. Some consider Tierra del Fuego as part of Patagonia others not.

If you try to align Patagonia with the current administrative divisions of Chile and Argentina than the following provinces (Argentina) and regions (Chile) are typically considered to be Patagonia:

In Argentina:

- Neuquén
- Río Negro
- Chubut
- Santa Cruz
- Tierra del Fuego

In Chile:

- XIV. Region (Región de los Ríos with the provinces Valdivia and Ranco)
- X. Region (Región de los Lagos with the provinces Chiloé, Llanquihue, Osorno and Palena)
- XI. Region (Región de Aysén del General Carlos Ibáñez del Campo with the provinces Aisén, Capitán Prat, Coihaique and General Carrera)
- XII. Region (Región de Magallanes y de la Antártica Chilena with the provinces Magallanes, Tierra del Fuego, Última Esperanza and Antártica Chilena)

The growing international fame of Patagonian contributes to the “extension” of this region. Regions that were not considered part of Patagonia a century ago now advertise themselves as “gateway to Patagonia”.

For more information to this subject read the [Spanish Wikipedia article to Patagonia](#) 🌐.

3.7 Alternative Hiking Areas in Patagonia

The following list contains my suggestion of more established hiking areas in Patagonia.

- **Villarica Traverse (GPT16)**

The popular 5 day hike near Pucon from the Ski Center Villarica to Puesco traverses the volcanic terrain of the volcano Villarica and volcano Quetrupillan. This is one of the established trails that is frequently hiked by foreign visitors. [See the English trail description on Wikiexplora for more information](#) 🌐.

- **Puyehue Ascent (GPT19)**

The ascent of this volcano from Anticura starting at the international road Ruta 215 from Osorno to Bariloche is an established summit route that is taken by many hikers each year. Return on the same path! DO NOT attempt a traverse without a GPS, precise tracks, good weather and sufficient reserves. If you do not find the trail head on the other side of the plateau you will get stuck in an extremely dense forest. In this area people went missing and were never found again. [Read the Spanish trail description on Wikiexplora to learn more about this option](#) 🌐.

- **Cochamó (GPT22)**

This is a relatively young hiking area that has seen a rapidly growing popularity in recent years. Most people walk from the town of Cochamó in one day to the camp site near La Junta and make various day trips from this location. From La Junta most hikers return on the same route to Cochamó. [See the Spanish trail description on Wikiexplora for more information](#) 🌐.

- **Cerro Castillo (GPT32)**

The traverse from Las Horquetas to Villa Cerro Castillo is one of the classics trails in central Patagonia and suitably located on the way to Southern Patagonia. The start and the finish are on the Carretera Austral. Here you can experience a fantastic blend of skyscraper mountains, glaciers and glacier lake. [You should read the English Wikiexplora article if considering this hike](#) 🌐.

- **El Chaltén (GPT39)** (Monte Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre)

This is a small but one of the most visited hiking areas in Patagonia. Hikers either camp in one of the official camp ground or make day trips from the town of El Chaltén to the very popular lookouts to Monte Fitz Roy and Cerro Torre. Expect lots of hikers and stunning views. [The Spanish trail description on Wikiexplora provides more information](#) 🌐.

- **Torres del Paine (GPT45)**

This is for good reasons the most popular hiking area in Patagonia. The number of visors has risen to a level that restrictions are now in place. You need to make reservations months in advance for specific dates especially if you plan to visit this area between December and February. [Check out the English Wikiexplora description to learn more about this hiking area](#) 🌐.

Another excellent option to explore parts of the GPT in a more guided manner is a horse-riding tour. This gives you an excellent insight into the *arriero* culture. I recommend you the horse riding guides that introduced us to the fascinating Maule region. We made four extended horse riding tours with Danilo and Llito and the GPT would not exist in the current form without them. You can get in contract with [Danilo Contreras](http://www.chile-horseriding.com) on: www.chile-horseriding.com 🌐.

Another village where you can arrange stunning horse-riding tours is Vilches Alto. You can easily reach this village by bus from Talca. Vilches Alto is located about 30 km west of the volcano Descabezado Grande. Several years ago we did an impressive 6 day tour which was for us an essential eyeopener to pay more attention to the region north of Patagonia.



Picture 170: GPT06: Horse riding next to Descabezado Grande. Image: Jan Dudeck

Many of the trails we took on horseback are now integral parts of sections GPT06 and GPT07.

There are several other locations in the vicinity of the GPT where horse riding tours can be done. You may pre-arrange horse riding tours either with an international travel agency or search locally once in the country. If arranging your tour with an international travel agency than you pay a substantial premium but you have a more predictable travel experience based on a standard offer. With limited time and sufficient funds this is normally a good choice. Google will guide you to several international travel agencies and local companies with multiple horse riding offers. We personally know the team of [Estanica el Encanto](#) 🌐 and there are many more.

With sufficient time and some more appetite for adventure you may try to organize a horse riding tour locally. This requires good Spanish knowledge and good judgment to discuss in detail what can be done and what you wish to do. The advantage of arranging a tour locally is that you can agree on the timing and routing. But be careful; some guides that offers a *cabalgata* (horse riding tours) may promise more than they are prepared to execute just to secure a paying customer.

Also, if you plan to hike on the GPT and you look for a variation to the hiking routine or if you simply love horse riding than consider combining your hike on the GPT with a horse-riding trip.



Picture 171: GPT06: Horse riding next to Descabezado Grande.
Image: Jan Dudeck

some guides that offers a *cabalgata* (horse riding tours) may promise



Picture 172: GPT07: Horse riding with Danilo and Jito at the dormant Supervolcano Laguna del Maule (the founder and the horse riding guide of www.chile-horseriding.com 🌐). They opened our eyes for the fascinating *arriero* culture and the Maule region (section GPT07). Image: Jan Dudeck

3.8 Tourist Permit Extension “Visa Trips”

The easiest way to extend or renew your tourist permit is travelling between Chile and Argentina before completing your 90 days and returning a few days later. On re-entry you will normally be granted another 90-day tourist permit⁵⁴ even if you remained only one or two days on the other side of the border. Such a “visa-trip” may be combined with a resupply stop in a town on the other side of the border⁵⁵. Reasonable short distances or regular public transportation facilitate such a cross-border-trip in the following locations:

- **Paso Icalma:** At the southern terminus of section GPT13 you may walk or hitch-hike the 15 km from Icalma in Chile to Villa Pehuenia in Argentina. This is for practical reasons the most northern suitable border crossing for a “visa trip” on the GPT.
- **Paso Maui Malal:** At the southern terminus of section GPT15 you may take a bus from Pucon or Curarrehue in Chile to Junin de Los Andes or San Martin de Los Andes in Argentina.
- **Paso Huahum:** On GPT18 you may hitch-hike from Pirihueco on the eastern end of Lago Pirihueco to San Martin de los Andes in Argentina.
- **Paso Cardenal Antonio Samoré:** At the southern terminus of section GPT19 you may take a bus between Osorno in Chile and San Carlos de Bariloche in Argentina.

⁵⁴ This is a distinct difference to Europe where a visa-free access to the Schengen states permits only 90 days within any 180-day period.

⁵⁵ When doing a resupply trip over the border consider that import restrictions for fresh food. See chapter 1.8.16 What to Bring and What to Leave on page 110.

- **Paso Perez Rozales** and **Paso Vuriloche**: On section GPT21 you may take the optional route around Monte Tronador by crossing from Peulla in Chile to Lago Frias in Argentina, hike southbound to Pampa Linda in Argentina and return to Chile over Paso Vuriloche.
- **Paso Puelo**: Towards the end of section GPT22 you will cross at Paso Puelo from Chile to Argentina.
- **Paso Rio Encuentro**: Towards the end of section GPT26 you will cross the border from Argentina to Chile when hiking or hitch-hiking from Carrenleufú to Palena.
- **Paso Jeinemeni**: At the start of section GPT35 you may walk or hitch-hike from Chile Chico to Los Antiguos in Argentina.
- **Paso Roballos** and **Paso Río Meyer**: The very remote exploration options of GPT35 and GPT36H cross on Paso Roballos into Argentina and return on Paso Rio Meyer into Chile. This route is very challenging and going for it should not be motivated by getting a tourist permit extension.

3.9 Creation and History of the GPT

To be issued.

3.9.1 Interview by Michael Deckebach

Michael: First, could you tell us a bit about yourself and your outdoors experience prior to the GPT?

Jan: I started when I was 15 with bicycle tours in Europe. I traveled from my home in Germany east to Czech Republic, west to France, south to Italy, and north to Norway. When I was 22 I did my first hiking tour. Badly overloaded with too much stuff, I hiked ten days through Scotland. When I was 27, I did my first trip to Patagonia and hiked the classic trails: Torres del Paine, el Chalten to Cerro Torre and Fitzroy, Puyehue and the Villarica Traverse. Since then I have regularly returned to the Andes to do more hikes and horse riding tours. In Chile I also met Meylin (now my wife and hiking partner) who had no outdoor experience at the time but dreamed of traveling her country by foot, bicycle, and horse.

Michael: How was the idea for the GPT born? Why did you decide to create it?

Jan: During our horse riding tours we were guided by locals into fascinating areas on excellent trails that did not show up on any existing map. When reviewing these trips on Google Earth, I noticed with surprise that many of these undocumented trails are visible on satellite images. I searched for more of these undocumented trails via satellite images, and Meylin and I then tried to venture into these areas. It worked out! In the spring of 2013 I wondered if these places we had been could be connected by one long continuous route. It was at first a rather hypothetical question, but when I had a roughly 1000 km long route laid out, I wanted

to go for it.

Michael: How did you map the GPT?

Jan: It all started with Google Earth. I first reviewed satellite pictures of approximately one dozen areas in Patagonia where I had been previously. This taught me how to interpret aerial images (i.e., how to distinguish a horse trail from a similar looking gully). With this expertise I researched other areas on Google Earth and found plenty of undocumented trails. Then I searched the internet for additional information which I found mainly on Wikiexplora and Wikiloc. By putting all this together I created an approximately 1300 km long route with an estimated 85% to 90% being reasonably reliable and 10% to 15% requiring further investigation on the ground.

Michael: What has most surprised you or been unexpected about developing the GPT?

Jan: Coming from Europe, I was used to having hiking maps available for every square meter of land, with the implicit understanding that anything not on these maps does not exist. My biggest surprise was the large number of undocumented trails in the Andes. Most valleys have a trail even though the maps are blank.

Michael: What has been the hardest part about creating the GPT?

Jan: The creation of the GPT is still ongoing and what challenges me most has changed over time.

The first challenge was finding the most attractive route while minimizing road kilometers. I don't like walking on gravel roads. Speed and "making" many kilometers were never on my priority list, but appreciating natural beauty is.

After I recorded the initial route by GPS I faced the second challenge: publishing it. First I had to decide if publishing it at all was worthwhile. Then, when I opted to publish the GPT, I had to figure out where and how to publish this route in order to promote a sustainable use. My key objective with publishing the GPT is preserving these trails and maintaining the generally positive relationship between the locals that live along the trail and hiking guests.

Since publishing I have faced a third challenge: preventing abuse. Unfortunately, I now deal with plagiarizers that want to commercially exploit the GPT without caring whether a commercial use might be appropriate or not. Also, arrogant ego-promoters and celebrity-seekers have been an occasional annoyance that shrink every mountain and every host to a selfie background. However, this trail seems to protect itself; the GPT humiliates the proud and rewards the humble.

Michael: Any regrets about publicizing your work? When do you think an adventurer should or should not share their tracks?

Jan: These are two questions with different answers. Do I regret publishing the GPT? No. So far I still believe that that this publication does more good than harm but I can't be certain what the long term effects will be. When we hike and paddle the GPT we hardly see young settlers and young arrieros (Chilean for cowboy) along the trail. The children of the older generation who live beside the trails do not follow the traditional way of life, opting instead to move (understandably) into the towns and cities where life is less burdensome. If these trails do not see continued use then a good part of the GPT will be abandoned and overgrown in

one or two decades. Outside visitors that value the land as it is today provide some protection against this. It is easier to exploit and destroy land when it is “off the public’s radar,” so bringing the public into the “black spots” contributes to the protection of these areas. That said, ask me again in 20 years to answer this same question and I’ll have more wisdom.

To your second question: an adventurer should always think about the likely and the possible effects for the land and the residents before sharing tracks. Fame and glory should be excluded from this decision, particularly if the track traverses non-public terrain or sensitive areas. One useful mental exercise is to think about publishing the track anonymously—I find this eliminates inappropriate motives from tainting my decision-making.

Michael: Misconceptions - it seems like the GPT has a lot of them. Why do you think that is?

Jan: The biggest misconception is probably that the GPT is a trail. When starting publishing the GPT I had been hiking and horse riding for 10 years exclusively in the Andes. So I somehow lost the outside view of what a trail is. For me it became natural that trails are not marked, that I’m just the guest on the land of someone else, that I have to choose between multiple route options, and that the trails can be overgrown and difficult to follow. I had to be reminded by some frustrated (performance-)hikers that the GPT differs from many other long trails.

Michael: What is your long-term goal or vision for the GPT?

Jan: My vision is a vast network of routes that contributes to the protection of the land and where respectful hikers and packrafters are welcome by the local arrieros, the indigenous Pehuenche, and the settlers on the route. I hope that these locals on the trail

and the passing hikers and packrafters experience mutual benefits with as little as possible annoyance. My goal is not to create a new AT, PCT or CDT that is taken by some visitors as a proving ground or public stage where the “I” is in the center. I have failed if hikers routinely use the phrase “I make the GPT.”

I will achieve my goal if these trails continue to exist in 20 years and when arrieros, indigenous Pehuenche, and settlers say with pride that they live on a trail that is regularly hiked and paddled by Chileans and foreign guests.

Michael: How can people get involved or help out?

Jan: The GPT is an informal trail networks that relies on the contributions of hiking community. Providing a full GPS record of your hike and feedback for each section hiked is essential to keep the track files updated. And if you enjoy reviewing and editing text you can always help develop and update the steadily growing GPT documentation.

Michael: Anything else you’d like to say to the US hiking community?

Jan: Don’t take anything for granted that you learned and became accustomed to in North America. Be open to surprises by a route network that challenges your concept of hiking and immerses you in fascinating cultures. Learn Spanish if you don’t speak it. And have the courage to be a humble guest.

3.10 Suggestions for Governments and Regional Administrations

To be issued.

3.11 Further Reading and Recommended Literature

To be issued.